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APPENDIX
TO
DESCENDANTS
OF
JOHN COLLETT

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Appendix
to
GENEALOGY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF
JOHN COLLETT
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**BRIEF
BIOGRAPHY**

JOSEPHUS COLLETT

1831-1893

To the oldest inhabitants of Terre Haute—to such as have grown with the city's growth and worn its welfare near the heart—few names in the list of honored dead bear so gracious a significance as that Josephus Collett. Antecedents of Collett are found through several centuries and in various lands, but always in those forward ranks by whose energies the world's progress is achieved and history made. The old English stock from which Mr. Collett was descended on the paternal side is traceable back to the reign of Henry VIII, during which Sir Henry Collett was twice Lord Mayor of London; and in this and succeeding reign, his son, Rev. John Collett, figured as dean of St. Paul's Cathedral and founded St. Paul's School for boys. Sir John Collett, merchant of London, member of The Virginia Company, 1619-1624, and wife, Susanna Ferrar Collett, had three sons who came to the Virginia Colony in America in 1650, John and Richard, Baltimore, Maryland, and James of Virginia.

Josephus Collett was a descendant of John and Ann Goldsmith Collett, of Baltimore, Maryland. John Collett, born 1760, the grandfather of this subject moved from Baltimore to Pennsylvania in 1786, and in 1797 moved over the Alleghany mountains to Northwest Territory,

where in the infant settlement of Chillicothe and Columbus he did sturdy work as a pioneer. He became one of the largest land owners in Scioto county and was intrusted with many high offices. His son, Stephen S. Collett, the father of Josephus, was born at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, and began life as a civil engineer, later engaged in mercantile pursuits, and finally turned his attention to farming. As a progressive citizen of Indiana, he gained political prominence, serving during several terms as a Representative, and afterwards being elected State Senator from Vermillion county. His death occurred at Indianapolis in Brownings Hotel, during his term of office as Senator, to the deep regret of the entire State.

The name of Collett has been conspicuous in the annals of this section of Indiana since territorial days, that of Josephus Sr., being honorably recorded in the earliest of its official State documents. The family of Groenendyke, also, of which thrifty Holland-Dutch and French Huguenot stock, the mother of Josephus Collett, was born in New Jersey, has been a prominent one in the history of Vigo county, where Sarah Groenendyke was married to Stephen S. Collett, November 8, 1821. This young couple made their home in Terre Haute for five years then removed to Vermillion county. Josephus Collett was born in Eugene, Vermillion county, Indiana, August 17, 1831. He was the fifth

child of a family of eight, three boys and five girls. His early years were passed quietly in his father's home. He attended the primitive schools of Vermillion county until beyond their power of helpfulness, and did preparatory work for a collegiate course. At the age of eighteen he entered Wabash College, remaining a student there until his senior year, when the uncertain condition of his health, combined with a severe nervous affection of the eyes, compelled him to give up the prospect of completing his classical studies and the satisfaction and prestige afforded by a college graduation. The degree of master of arts, however, was subsequently conferred upon him. After recovering his health he became interested in agricultural matters and for several years occupied himself with farming, meeting with exceptional success in this line and the kindred one of stock-dealing. Later he engaged in the mercantile business at Newport, Indiana, with his brother Stephen S. Collett, (Jr.) uniting with the ordinary functions of merchant those of pork-packing and grain operators. His next venture, in what proved to be the line of his greatest business achievement, was railroad construction.

At this time the mode of transportation in Vermillion county was crude and insufficient, and Mr. Collett set about its betterment with characteristic zeal. His difficulty in securing railroad facilities, however, led him to such

advise as that of Chauncey Rose, an energetic and esteemed pioneer of Vigo county, and an old friend of the Collett family. Mr. Rose heartily approved the project and rendered substantial assistance in carrying it into effect. Thus was built the Evansville, Terre Haute, and Chicago railroad, running the entire length of Vermillion county. Mr. Collett was made president and general manager, serving as such for several years, and his brother Stephen S. Collett served several years as treasurer of the railroad, under their operation of the property the railroad was a success. The road was then leased to the Chicago, and Eastern Illinois Railroad Company, to which concern absolute control later was transferred. Other lines which Mr. Collett built are as follows; The Nevada Central, ninety-three miles, between Austin and Battle Mountain, of which he was owner and president until its sale. The Utah and Nevada, running from Salt Lake City for thirty-seven miles along the southern shore Great Salt Lake, he being president of this line until his death; the Rochester and Olean, in the northern part of Ohio, Charles Foster, afterwards Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, being associated with him in the enterprise; the Genesee Valley of New York; the Austin and Northwestern of Texas, of which he was president and owner previous to his sale of the property; the Otter Creek Valley railroad, running through Vigo

and Clay counties, Indiana, and the Indiana Coal R. R. Another road of which he was president was the Chicago, and Ohio River, connecting Olney and Sidell, Illinois.

Mr. Collett was a man in whom were strikingly united great executive ability and versatile capacity; and although his most extensive operations were in construction and management of railroads, he was the instigator of many and varied enterprises in other lines; and the State or Territory was exceptional in which he did not at one time or another have capital invested. His largest property was a fourth interest in the Standard Wheel Company, the capitalization of which was \$2,000,000. Next in magnitude were his real-estate holdings in New York City, the Adirondacks, Chicago, Minnesota, Florida, Indianapolis, Texas, Terre Haute, and Coronado Beach at San Diego, the latter property having been sold a short time prior to his death. Although pursuing large interests in other portions of the country, his own State was by no means slighted, he having large manufacturing and mining interests in Indiana, while the city of Terre Haute found in him a constant and vigorous supporter of nearly all its public enterprises. From his bounty he was a frequent and liberal contributor, the gift of Collett Park to Terre Haute alone being an inestimable boon to the residents of that city. And the fact that the value of the environments

of the property owned by Mr. Collett was greatly enhanced by the presence of that charming twenty-acre tract of land and grove in its midst in no way lessens the boon, but simply shows a rare combination of philanthropic motive and shrewd business foresight. Mr. Collett, was vice-president, then president of the Rose Polytechnic Institute, with the development of which he was, and had been, identified from its inception and in which he always felt great pride. Other institutions of Terre Haute with which he was responsibly connected were; Rose Orphan Home, Rose Dispensary, Terre Haute House Company, The Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad, First National Bank, Vigo County Bank, and Indiana Book Concern. Although a man of immense business capacity and achievement, he found considerable time to devote to literature and scientific matters, his one acquirement being of no mean order, particularly in geology and archaeology, his collection in the latter branch, one of the most extensive in the United States, comprising 4,000 choice specimens.

On the death of Mr. Chauncey Rose, there devolved upon Mr. Collett, the investment of something like \$525,000, endowment of the Polytechnic Institute, and he proved himself both wise and faithful in the administration of the trust confided in him. Doubtless one of the fundamental secrets of his vast success as a fi-

nancier lay in the fact that his vigorous integrity inspired universal confidence, enabling him to command enormous sums of money at any time, in the East or wherever he chose to raise it. The wide distribution of his business necessitated much travel, and the later years of his life may be said to have been spent on the wing. His last trip was to the East. While transacting affairs in New York City he fell ill, but was afterwards brought back to Terre Haute, where he spent the last months of his life and died February 13, 1893. A line of esteem in which he was held was given in the splendid assembly at the obsequies, which included complete official boards of the various institutions with which he had been prominently connected, also the students of Rose Polytechnic Institute, who attended in a body. The beneficiaries of his immense estate were many, both relations and of the public enterprises which he had fostered during his lifetime. Although an unmarried man, Mr. Collett carried a heavy life-insurance. The surviving members of the immediate family are two brothers and three sisters, as follows; John Collett, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Stephen S. Collett, of Newport, Indiana; Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks, and Mrs. James H. Turner, of Terre Haute, and Mrs. Ellen Jones, of Newport, Indiana. The loss of the deceased was deeply felt in Terre Haute and elsewhere; but there are no means of determining the de-

gree of loss involved in the death of such a man as Josephus Collett. So vast a human force, crowned by a lofty integrity and a spirit of good will to men, defies all rules of measurement, even as do the sands of the sea.

GEORGE IRWIN REED, A. M.

**BRIEF
BIOGRAPHY**

**JOHN COLLETT
1828-1899**

The late John Collett, A. B., A. M., Ph. D., of Indianapolis, Indiana, was of English extraction, and the history of the family on both sides of the Atlantic is touched upon in the sketch of his brothers Josephus and Stephen S. Jr., which appears in another part of this book. His parents were Stephen S. and Sarah (Groenedyke) Collett, his father having been a pioneer surveyor who, with others, was employed by the Government upon the original survey of Indiana and Ohio. He was a man of political prominence, and was serving in the State Senate of Indiana at the time of his death in 1843.

John Collett, the eldest son of a family of eight children, was born January 6, 1828, at Eugene, county of Vermillion, Indiana. He was reared upon his father's farm, attending the schools of the vicinity until he had outgrown them. In 1838, he entered the preparatory department, Wabash College, continuing his studies in the regular course until he was graduated in 1847, at the age of nineteen. In the meantime, the death of his father had left him with the double responsibility of an estate to manage and a large family which relied upon him as its male head. Hard as it seems that a boy of fifteen should feel upon his shoulders the cares that belong to mature life, it is undoubt-

edly true that in many instances such an experience has given an impetus towards industry and economy which, continuing in force through later years, has made life a greater success than it would otherwise have been.

Upon leaving college, young Collett devoted himself to the cultivation of the farm, the land responding to his competent and faithful attention by yielding him very gratifying returns. But not all his time and strength were thus expended. While his hands grew rough with rural work, his mind was becoming more and more refined. He was an habitual burner of the "midnight oil," often, like Napoleon, limiting his nights repose to four hours. Upon his graduation, he received the degree of A. B. and twice afterwards his Alma Mater conferred honorary degrees upon him—that of A. M. in 1852, and in 1879, in recognition of his scientific attainments, that of Ph. D. Although never a medical practitioner, he was in 1882, granted the degree of M. D. by the Central Medical College. Besides his studies and his management of the home estate, he often performed official services as trustee, administrator or guardian, and his conduct in such capacities was at all times unimpeachable.

In politics, Mr. Collett was first a Whig, then a Republican. His party elected him to the State Senate from the counties of Parke and Vermillion for the special session of 1871 and

1873. It was partially through his influence while in the Senate that free gravel roads throughout the State were instituted; and the communities are indebted to him for the law which makes private owners of live stock responsible for damage done by it when allowed to run at large. In conjunction with James D. Williams, Senator from Knox county, he helped to bring about the passage of a law requiring banks to distribute all surplus school fund among the counties of the State for investment as loans, the interest to be applied to the support of the public schools. Of the righteousness of this law there can be no question in the mind of one who studies economic conditions from a broad and generous standpoint, and Mr. Collett may be counted as one of the pioneers in a movement, still in the feebleness of infancy, which, if it survives to attain mature proportions, will strike a death blow to the concentration of capital for the gratification of selfish ambition. Another cause into which Mr. Collett threw the weight of his influence was that of compulsory education, inspired by his recognition of the fact that weeds of vice and misfortune grow most rankly in the soil of ignorance. He was also the projector of a State Home for the feeble-minded, which now exists as one of Indiana's successful benevolent institutions. Indeed, all these laws for which he toiled in the seventies stand today upon the statute books of the State,

best of witnesses to his level and far-seeing judgment.

From his excellent work as a legislator, we now turn to consider the far greater work accomplished by him as a practical scientist. He possessed an inborn tendency to scientific research, and began his labors in geology and archaeology by collecting and classifying the specimens in which the soil of his father's farm abounded. His genius was of a order that could not long remain hidden from the world of science, and he was drawn into correspondence with Worthen, Marsh, Lesquerent, Winchell, Cope, Newberry, and others of like prominence in America, as well as many of the eminent scientists of Europe. This constant gleaning of facts and ideas concerning the respective specialties of many learned men swelled the treasury of the young student's erudition, and his growth was rapid. The source of his inspiration was two-fold; He loved science for its own sake, and he loved it for the sake of its relation to economic advancement. Beginning with 1870, he was engaged for about ten years as deputy to Professor Cox, State Geologist for Indiana, and the results of his investigations were given to the public in a series of able reports which, compiled, would have made a thousand-page volume. These reports were illustrated by one hundred forty-three plates of fossils, in which the separate figures numbered

seventeen hundred and thirteen. Of these figures, twelve hundred and seventeen have been copied by Professor J. P. Leslie in his Dictionary of Fossils of Pennsylvania, Mr. Collett being courteously accredited as author. No other reports ever issued from Indiana's office have been considered comparable in value to those of Mr. Collett.

In 1881, he succeeded Mr. Cox to the post of State Geologist, and during his incumbency he sold in new markets an annual average of from \$125,000.00 to \$250,000.00 worth of the products of his own State. He also made systematic reports on the State's resources, which he published in six octavo volumes, of an average size of four hundred pages. In the year 1878-79 he acted as a member of the commission to build the new Statehouse, a position for which he was particularly qualified by his broad experience of men, gained by public life, and a geologist's familiarity with building materials. Largely owing to his influence, the board conducted a series of tests of many samples of stone submitted, which resulted in the establishment of Indiana's right to her claim in her oolitic stone, one unsurpassed in the qualities that go to constitute a perfect building material. Mr. Collett resigned this position upon his appointment by Governor Williams as chief of the Bureau of Statistics and Geology, a department then but recently

created, meagerly furnished with funds and practically left for him to inaugurate. The task to which he was set was a most trying one, but he rose to the emergency, collected and systematized a vast and varied amount of valuable information; and so excellent were his methods that succeeding chiefs have been glad to follow along the lines established by him.

In addition to his official reports, Mr. Collett has made valuable contributions to scientific literature. He is the author of about a score of important papers on the geology of Indiana, besides about a hundred valuable articles on ornithology, botany, agriculture and kindred subjects. The first geological map of the State was prepared and published by him, and he has issued no less than twenty-seven maps of the various counties. To glacial geology he has made contributions which are models of accuracy and clearness, qualities which characterize all his writings. He took his material direct from nature, and gave it to others in simple form. No other man has done for Indiana what John Collett has done. He loved his native State and, searching her lineaments with clear and earnest gaze, he received revelations of her deep secrets. Twenty-five times he traversed her coal fields, equipped for practical experiment, locating and determining the boundaries of the vast beds of coal, and her valuable stone and clay. Resulting from his research and toil,

an industrial and social revolution took place in Indiana. The demand for capital met with a swift response, coal mines and quarries were opened; factories and shops were built and became the nuclei of populous, bustling towns; a network of railroads was spun, as by magic; while manufacturers and artisans, merchants and farmers, became bound together by the ties of reciprocal need and benefit. The achievements of Mr. Collett would do credit to a score of men. There is a deep pith of truth in the saying that, if you want something done quickly and well, you must appeal to the business man. The genius of work possessed by a few choice spirits is one of the wonders of the world.

In 1868, Mr. Collett became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and during his life he was made honorary member of a large number of progressive societies. His fame grew apace, and he was more and more sought and held in learned conference by scientists of note from all parts of the country. Possessing, as he did doubtlessly, the greatest fund of substantial knowledge and traditional lore ever accumulated by any resident of Indiana, united with the happy gift of clear and fluent speech, he was a man most entertaining, and was often the center of a circle of interested listeners whom he delighted to instruct, or amuse with absorbing tales of the Wabash valley. Like all famous men, he was

sometimes imposed upon by persons actuated by no deeper purpose than idle curiosity. But such were quickly recognized and summarily dealt with. If manners are a contrivance of wise men to keep fools at a distance, it is a truth that will apply as well to curt as courteous manners; indeed the former may be credited with the double advantage of being more honest and more effective. Mr. Collett's personality, always an impressive one, was most striking in his later years, when his long hair and full beard had bleached to the whiteness of snow. A pretty incident is told of his having been made a victim of a novel but entirely successful confidence game in which the attacking parties were but pigmies beside his imposing figure. Having ventured with patriarchal beard into a strange city during Christmas period of license in the juvenile world, he was vociferously proclaimed Santa Claus by a band of tiny victors. Whether or not he doubted the genuineness of their delusion, he had not the heart to risk a genuine disappointment, and allowed himself to be hustled into a neighborhood shop, and proceeded to fulfill their most sanguine expectations. Nor was the gratification all theirs. Apart from his amusement, perhaps this venerable bachelor had never before in his whole life felt so strong and tender a sense of paternity as while filling the eager hands of these clamoring little ruffians.

Mr. Collett's vast and varied labors were rewarded by a considerable degree of financial success, though his aims were too high to consist with mere personal ambitions; and to the day of his death, in March (15) 1899, heart and hand were always generously open to worthy seekers for sympathy and help. John Collett was a man of strong intellect, cultivated to a high degree in the perceptive and reasoning faculties. He desired to know the truths of science and accepted no man's theories without investigation and proof. He was therefore a student by habit and inclination. His investigations and researches were enormous, but his sedulous application always found reward in the discovery of a scientific fact unknown before, or a clearer understanding of that which had been observed. No one could engage him in conversation or remain long in his presence and fail to be impressed with his profound learning and his enthusiasm in the pursuit of further acquirements. His method of expression was sometimes sharp and incisive, but always clear and unmistakable. He was strong in the assertion of his views, because they were based upon knowledge; they were accurate. His deepest convictions had their substantial foundation in truth and his moral courage was at all times equal to their forceful expression. He esteemed personal friendship and was always companionable with congenial associates. His genius was

of the practical sort which works rather than dreams, and hence during a busy life, full of energy and hope and perseverance, he was able to accomplish much for himself, for his State, and for the broad realm of science. (With his brother Josephus Collett established, and fully endowed, Collett's Home For Orphans, located upon Stephen S. Collett, Sr., estate in Vermillion county, Indiana.)

GEORGE IRWIN REED, A. M.

**BRIEF
BIOGRAPHY**

STEPHEN S. COLLETT, (JR.)

1829-1902

One of the largest attended funerals that has taken place in Newport for many years, was that of Stephen S. Collett, on Monday afternoon from his late residence. Mr. Collett had been an invalid for two years and had to be wheeled about in an invalid's chair. His life had been slowly ebbing away until death ended his earthly existence at 8:38 a. m. November 8, 1902. Mr. Collett was born in Eugene, Vermillion county, Indiana, December 13, 1829, making his age at the time of his death, seventy-two years, ten months and twenty-five days. His father, Stephen S. Collett, Sr., was born December 26, 1791, at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, son of John and Elizabeth Stevenson Collett, who were married in 1782 at Baltimore, Maryland, and moved to Pennsylvania in 1786. The old French-English stock from which Mr. Collett was descended on the paternal side is traceable back to Normandy, France. The Ferrars and the Colletts, both families being French Huguenots, went into England from Normandy, France, with William The Conqueror, in 1066. Mr. Collett was in direct line of descent from Sir John and Susanna Ferrar Collett, who was a merchant in London, and later as a resident of Little Gidding, England, he was born 1572 and died 1650, at the age of 78 years. Mr. Collett's wife, Susanna, was the daughter of Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., merchant and foreign trader of London, and his wife, Mary Woodnoth Ferrar; the

daughter, Susanna, was born in London 1581 and died 1657, at the age of 76 years. They are both buried in the Church Yard at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England. In 1619, Nicholas Ferrar, merchant and foreign trader, London, England; Sir John Collett, his son-in-law, merchant of London; Sir Thomas Collett, eldest son of John, graduate Middle Temple, College Law, London; Sir Edwin Sandys; Sir Walter Raleigh; Nicholas Ferrar, Jr.; John Ferrar; Edward Collingwood; Lord Dorset; Sir John Lyell; Henry Mannering, and Capt. John Bargrave and others founded The Virginia Company of London, receiving a large land-grant from the Crown of England in America, known as The Virginia Colony. The Virginia Company, in the same year, formed a "seminary of learning" or Henrico College in the Virginia Colony for the purpose of educating the infidels, or Indians of Virginia, setting over a land-grant to Henrico College from The Virginia Company. Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., provided in his will, probated April 4, 1620 in London, for three hundred English pounds to go to Sir Edwin Sandys and John Ferrar, his son, as trustees, money to be used by them for the benefit of Henrico College students. Upon the revocation of The Virginia Company Charter in 1624, by the Crown of England, the land-grant to Henrico College by The Virginia Company, in a few years became void. William and Mary

College, Williamsburg, Virginia, became a successor. Sir John and Susanna Ferrar Collett had three sons who came to the American Colonies in 1650, James Collett, graduate Middle Temple, College Law, London, remaining in Virginia, while Richard, graduate Middle Temple, College Law, London, and his wife, Elizabeth, and John, graduate Clare College, Cambridge, England, and his wife, Ann Goldsmith, located at Baltimore, Maryland. Richard in practice of law, John becoming the first Clerk of the Court, Baltimore county, Maryland where he remained until his death in 1669, his will being probated October 29, 1670. His holdings of real estate in Maryland and Virginia, the records show to have been extensive. Commissioner's Court Records, Baltimore county, Maryland, reads: "Since it has pleased God to take away John Collett, Clerk of this county, and the county business being neglected for want of a Clerk, by advise of Jerome White, we have for the present, chosen one Thomas Salmon, to act as Clerk. Done this November, 29th, 1669, Thomas Atwell, Godfrey Bayley, Jo. Vanluke, Commissioners. To Honorable Governor."

John Collett, descendent of John and Ann Goldsmith Collett, Clerk Baltimore county, married Elizabeth Stevenson 1782, at Baltimore, and moved to Huntingdon, Pennsylvania in 1786, and to Ross county, Northwest Territory

in 1797, locating at Chillicothe, where he became a large land owner. It was at Chillicothe that his wife died and was buried in 1803, the year Ohio was admitted as a State into the Union. Upon the location of Columbus, Ohio in 1812, Mr. Collett was one of sixteen men to buy the first lots sold, purchasing lot number 262, on High street, upon which he built the first brick building in Columbus. His daughter Mary's (Polly) marriage to Josephus Dillow in 1813, was the second marriage held in Columbus. September 8, 1818, Mr. Collett sold his Columbus, Ohio, realty holdings to Robert Russell, and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he and his sons, Josephus and Stephen S., had been appointed Government Land Surveyors. Stephen S. Collett, his son, surveyed five townships, 12-13-14-15 and 16, range one east and one west, in Indiana. In 1822 to 1826, he was a merchant in Terre Haute, first partner with William C. Linton, then partners were Chauncy Rose-William C. Linton-Stephen S. Collett, firm known as Rose, Linton and Collett.

November 8, 1821, Mr. Collett married Sarah Groenendyke, of Terre Haute, Indiana, daughter of John and Lucretia de Rapalje Groenendyke. She died March 2, 1852 and was buried in Collett-Fairbanks cemetery lot, Terre Haute, Indiana. Sarah Groenendyke's ancestors on the paternal side were thrifty Holland-Dutch stock, locating in America at New Brunswick,

New Jersey in 1740. Her mother, Lucretia de Rapalje, was a direct line descendant of Gaspard de Rapalje, Huguenot of Normandy France, born at Chatillion Sur Loire in 1505. He fled to Amsterdam, Holland, upon enforcement of the edict against Protestants by King Henry II, where he married the daughter of Victor Janssen, a landscape painter, a sister to Cornelius Janssen, a portrait painter, called Janssen van Keulin, born at Amsterdam, in 1593. Cornelius Janssen went to England in 1618, where he met with success as a portrait painter, painting several of the Nobility of England, also Nicholas and Mary Woodnoth Ferrar, John Ferrar, Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., Susanna Ferrar Collett, and others. The portraits of Nicholas and Mary Woodnoth Ferrar, and Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., are hung in the Lodge of Magdalene College, Cambridge University, where they can be seen. The portrait of John Ferrar and his sister, Susanna Ferrar Collett, are owned and are in the possession of Lord and Lady Lyell, of London, England. That Cornelius Janssen should paint the portraits of the Ferrars and Colletts, 1620 to 1637 in England, and have a sister-wife Gaspard de Rapalje, whose descendant, Sarah Groenendyke, should meet a descendant of the Ferrar-Collett family in Stephen S. Collett, and become his wife November 8, 1821, two hundred years later, half way around the world, from family origin con-

tact, is quite remarkable. During the year 1827, Mr. Collett's father moved to Vermillion county, Indiana, locating at Eugene, where he was engaged in the mercantile business with his brother, Josephus, here they prospered, accumulating large property holdings. He was chosen as a Whig of the Henry Clay school to represent Vermillion county in the House of Representatives for the sessions of 1833 and 1835. He was then a Senator from Parke, Warren, and Vermillion counties in 1835-36, and from Parke and Vermillion in 1842-44. He died December 28, 1843, at Brownings hotel, Indianapolis, while serving as State Senator, and was buried in Collett-Fairbanks cemetery lot, Terre Haute, Indiana.

His son, Stephen S. Collett, the subject of this Biography, was the fourth child of a family of three sons, five daughters. He attended the schools of Eugene, in Vermillion county, Indiana, and later entered Wabash College, class of 1850. Mr. Collett clerked in the general store of Campbell, Galey and Harter, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1853 to 1856. In 1857, with his uncle, Sam Groenendyke, he bought the Wilson Naylor general store in Eugene, Indiana. Sam Groenendyke died in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1860, while on a business trip, and his partnership in the store was sold to Josephus Collett, the younger brother of Stephen. In 1860 the Collett brothers moved

their store to Newport, Vermillion county, Indiana, where they built a large pork-packing plant which they operated, as well as conducting a large milling and grain market until 1867 when Josephus sold his interest in the multiple business to his cousin, William Collett. Stephen and William operated the business until 1869, when they sold out to John Stakely and E. Young Jackson. Stephen S. Collett, then joined his brother, Josephus Collett, in organizing and building the Evansville, Terre Haute and Chicago railroad. Josephus becoming president, and Stephen becoming secretary and treasurer of the railroad, which places they held for several years under successful management until the road was leased to the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad. Mr. Collett established the First National Bank at Newport, being the first bank in Vermillion county, in which he was a substantial stockholder, becoming its Cashier. The stockholders elected the following as directors to serve the first year: Josephus Collett, John Collett, Abel Sexton, Isaac Porter, Dr. Clarke Leavitt, and R. H. Nixon. In 1880, he established the Collett and Company Bank, Newport, which he successfully operated until his health failed about three years before his death. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Collett Orphan Home, until his death. He was a large land owner in the county of Vermillion, possessing over one thousand acres,

was interested in coal-mining at Clinton, Indiana, and was also a substantial stockholder in the Terre Haute Brewing Company and Standard Wheel Company.

Mr. Collett married Sarah J. Dunlap, who was born August 15, 1841, at Newport on May 29, 1861, who survived him. Born to them were four sons and one daughter. John, born March 15, 1862; Eva, born March 10, 1864; Sam, born October 25, 1868; Ben, born August 25, 1873, died June 1, 1880; Fred, born November 7, 1875, all of whom survived him except the one son. Mr. Collett also was survived by three sisters, Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks, Mrs. James H. Turner, of Terre Haute, and Mrs. Ellen C. Jones, of Newport, Indiana. Also by four nieces, Mrs. Joshua Jump, Terre Haute, Indiana; Mrs. Charles W. Ward, of Newport, Indiana; Mrs. Willis T. May, Pasadena, California; Mrs. A. B. Coolidge, Washington, D. C., and four nephews, Henry Campbell and Stephen Collett Campbell, Crawfordsville, Indiana; Josephus C. Davis, Terre Haute, Indiana, and Dr. Frank C. Jones, Frankfort, Indiana, and four grandchildren, Mrs. Fletcher Irwin and Stephen Collett Littlepage, Charleston, West Virginia; John P. Collett, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Miss Janet T. Collett, Brooklyn, New York.

The esteem in which Mr. Collett was held by all who were his acquaintances is well shown in a letter written by Mr. Hinkle, of Hartford,

State of Washington, to the Hoosier State, a county paper published at Newport, Indiana, in which is stated: "I see in the Hoosier State that my old friend and landlord, and the best adviser I ever had is dead, * * * I thought almost as much of that dear old soul as of my father, for he was a true friend to me. I shall never forget the advise he gave me." Mr. Collett's devotion to a large family while restricting his business opportunities to a locality, afforded him great pleasure and contentment, probably living the more honorable life in the eyes of God and man, than the lives lived by his lonely bachelor brothers. Every person in the county knew and was the personal friend of Mr. Collett, well attested by the attendance at his funeral by all classes of citizens from all walks of life. Plutarch said, "It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors." Edmond Burke, eighteenth century English statesman said, "Those who do not look forward to posterity, do not look back upon their ancestors." *Suum cuique decus posteritas rependit.*

EARLIEST MOVEMENT TOWARDS EDUCATION IN AMERICAN COLONIES

Proceedings were had in London, England, for the formation of a company in 1606, for the purpose of educating the infidels-Indians-in Virginia, by Sir Walter Raleigh, Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., and others. Following this was the formation of the Virginia Company, of London, England, in 1619, by Sir Walter Raleigh; Nicholas Ferrar, merchant and foreign trader; Sir John Collett, his son-in-law, merchant; Sir Thomas Collett, son of John, graduate Middle Temple, College of Law, London; Sir Edwin Sandys; John Ferrar; Nicholas Ferrar, Jr.; Edward Collingwood; Lord Dorset; sir John Lyell; Henry Mannering; John Bargrave; and others, to which a large land-grant was made by the Crown of England, in the Virginia Colony, America. The Virginia Company, in the same year formed a "seminary of learning," or Henrico College, in the Virginia Colony setting over a substantial land-grant in support of the "institution of learning," or Henrico College. Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., provided in his will, probated April 4, 1620, for three hundred English pounds to go to Sir Edwin Sandys and John Ferrar, as trustees, proceeds to be used for

benefit of student of Henrico College. Upon revocation of the Virginia Company Charter by the English Crown in 1624, the land-grant to Henrico College in Virginia, in a few years, became void, and William and Mary College became a successor about 1691.

(Abstract proceedings Virginia Company, of London, England, 1619 to 1624, Congressional Records, Washington, D. C., by Conway Robinson.)

William and Mary College, located at Williamsburg, Virginia, chartered in 1693, thus being the second oldest college in the U. S. A. An attempt was made to found a college, "seminary of learning" in Virginia, known as Henrico College, as early as 1619, when a grant of land was made by the Virginia Company. The revocation of the Virginia Company Charter, by the English Crown, disturbed the proceedings of Henrico College, although Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., in his will probated April 4, 1620, provided Sir Edwin Sandys and his eldest son, John Ferrar, be made trustees for a bequest of three hundred pounds, to be used to provide students expenses at Henrico College, to which William and Mary College had become a successor. Not until 1660, did the Virginia assembly vote a grant of land for the college, but disturbed conditions in England at that time prevented progress until 1691, when Rev. James Blair, was sent to England and obtained a char-

ter from the Crown, February, 8, 1693. Certain lands, a duty on tobacco, and other funds were appropriated to the use of the college. During the Revolutionary War the college lost a large part of its endowment, the buildings were occupied by British, American and French troops. After the Revolution the college was reorganized and received a grant of land from the Virginia legislature. George Washington served as Chancellor from 1788 to 1799. During the Civil War the college was closed. It was occupied by Federal troops and most of its buildings and property destroyed. In 1869 the main building was restored, and the college again opened, but under most serious embarrassment, so serious did the financial difficulties become that its sessions were suspended in 1882 until 1888, when the State Legislature, appropriated \$10,000.00 a year gradually increasing to \$50,000.00 in 1893. The college received \$64,000.00 from Congress as indemnity for loss suffered during the Civil War.

The college has always given history and political science a recognized place in its curriculum, and was the first American institution to establish chairs of law and history. Partially for that reason, its influence has always been felt in State and National history. It numbers among its graduates some of the leading men of the nation, including Chief Justice Marshall, Edmond Randolph and General Scott. The col-

lege also graduated three presidents, Jefferson, Monroe and Tyler. The college was also the first to introduce the elective system under Jefferson in 1779. The college was also the first to try the honor system, and a remarkable degree of freedom was permitted the students in the lecture room and on examinations. Young women were admitted upon equal terms with young men for the first time, in September, 1918. The campus contains the old buildings in front and the new buildings about a quadrangle adjoining. In the center of the oldest group is the main college structure. Though it has passed through three fires, the walls are the same as were originally put up. Student enrollment is about 1,500 men and women. (The American Encyclopedia.)

For several years I have corresponded with Mr. Henry Collett, 4, St. Ann's Villas, Holland Park, London, W. 11., England, who has been able to fully advise me as to our English ancestral family, he being well informed upon the Ferrar-Collett genealogy from the beginning of the English History. In a late letter he advises he has his MSS., of the English, and American branches; with the indexing of news clippings, listings of photographs, several diaries of the ancient members, together with fifteen books had upon the Ferrar-Collett genealogy, have all been set out in his will to go to the Genealogical Department, Clare College

Library, Cambridge University, England, for use of posterity.

The following listed photographs were sent me by Mr. Henry Collett, of London.

1620 to 1627, Cornelius Janssens, a portrait painter, painted portraits of Nicholas and Mary Woodnoth Ferrar, the elder of London, and of Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., of Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, all of which, portraits are hung, and to be seen, in the Magdalene College Lodge, Cambridge University. I have photographs of the oil portraits of Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., and his mother, Mary Woodnoth Ferrar.

I also, have a photograph of the oil portraits, painted by Janssens, of John Ferrar. The original portrait is in the possession of Lord and Lady Lyell, London, England, descendants of the Ferrar's. John Ferrar died in 1657, at Little Gidding, England.

Also have a photograph of the oil portrait of Mrs. Susanna Ferrar Collett, painted by Janssens. She was born 1581 died 1657, was the mother of John, James, and Richard Collett, who came as members of The Virginia Company to the Colonies in 1650, and later settled at Baltimore, Maryland. The original portrait of Susanna is in possession of Lord and Lady Lyell, London, England.

Also have a photograph of the Monument in the parish church of St. Martin, Chelsfield, Kent, England, to Peter Collett, containing

kneeling effigies of himself, his wife, and their two daughters. Peter was an Alderman of the City of London, died December 21, 1607, he was an uncle of John Collett, who married Susanna Ferrar. (See 'History of the Collett Family' vol. 1. in British Museum Library.)

Also have photograph of the Tomb in St. Dunstan's Church, Stelney, London, of Sir Henry Collett, Knight, who died in 1505. A wealthy merchant, twice Lord Mayor of London, (1486 and again in 1495) he was the father of the Rev. John Colet (French Spelling of name) Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. Sir Henry's name in his will is spelled both 'Colet' and 'Collett.' The Collett coat-of-arms, granted to Sir Henry in 1486, are to be seen in Little Gidding Church, on the tomb of Peter Collett at Chelsfield, Kent. The tomb, still existing, is on the north side of the chancel of St. Dunstan's Church.

Also have photograph of Tomb in old St. Paul's Cathedral of Dr. John Colet, (Collett) Dean of St. Paul's and founder of St. Paul's School for Boys. He was born 1467, died 1519. This photograph is from an engraving in 'Knight's Life of Dr. John Colet'.

Also have a photograph of Eben John Collett, of London, a great-great-uncle of Mr. Henry Collett, my London correspondent, who was a member of Parliament for thirty years, also had two sons who were members of Parliament.

Also have photographs of Little Gidding

Church, both interior and exterior, and the graves of John and Susanna Ferrar Collett, buried at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England.

Cornelius Janssens*, portrait painter, called Jenssens van Keulin, was born at Amsterdam, Holland, in 1593. He already reached considerable celebrity in his own country, when he visited England in 1618. He met with very flattering encouragement and painted portraits of Kings and of prominent people until 1648, when he returned to Amsterdam where he died.

Cornelius Janssens who painted the portraits of the Ferrars and Colletts of England, 1620 to 1637, was a son of Victor Janssens, a scenic painter of Amsterdam, Holland, and a brother to the wife of Gaspard de Rapalje. Gaspard de Rapalje, Huguenot of Normandy France, born at Chatillon Sur Loire in 1505, fled to Amsterdam, Holland upon the enforcement of the edict against the Protestants by King Henry II, where he married the daughter of Victor Janssens. Lucretia de Rapalje (Rappleye) a direct descendant of Gaspard de Rapalje and wife, born New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1777, was married to John Groenendyke, March 30, 1797, at New Brunswick, New Jersey, their daughter, Sarah Groenendyke, born July 6, 1804, married Stephen S. Collett, at Terre Haute, Indiana,

*Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers, Vol. 3, edited by George C. Williamson, Litt. D., page 107.

November 8, 1821. (Genealogy John Collett, page 64 to 80, gives complete line of descent of the Rapalje's.)

It is not possible to give in this short space the biography of each member of our ancient ancestors but, wish to note for information, that they were the graduates of the several Colleges of Cambridge University, England. To illustrate, Rev. Ferrar Collett, graduate of Peterhouse College, John Collett, who came to America, 1650, graduate of Clare College, Richard Collett and James Collett, who came to America, 1650, both graduates of Middle Temple, College Law, London, England and so on down the line.

It might be of interest to know that I have been able to acquire several out-of-print books, in England, that were not to be had in this country, covering the family history from the origin of English history, as follows:

“Little Gidding, and Its Founder,” edited by Henry Collett, this book has also his address delivered upon the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Little Gidding, also, Biographical notes of Nicholas Ferrar, Sr., of London, Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., Little Gidding, his brother, John Ferrar, John Collett and his wife Susanna Ferrar Collett, Thomas Collett, the oldest son, Mary and Ann Collett, daughters, and several others.

From Marks & Company, 84, Charing Cross

Road, London, W. C. 2., I was able to obtain a second-hand copy of "The Oxford Reformers," "John Colet, Desederius Erasmus, Sir Thomas More," edited by Frederick Seebohm, London. These three men brought about "The Reformation" in England, under King Henry VIII, which brought about the Church of England, or the Episcopal Church of today. Dr. Colet, for his activities in the Catholic Church Reform, as Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, was charged with heresy in 1512, the Archbishop of Canterbury became Dean Colet's protector and advocate, instead of his judge, and Colet was acquitted of heresy. The life of Colet, 1467 to 1519, is a most remarkable one. Erasmus upon hearing of the Dean's death wrote, "What a man has England and what a friend have I lost, it appears only half of me were alive, Colet being dead." Erasmus was of Rotterdam, Sir Thomas More, of London, England. In 1512 Colet founded and endowed St. Paul's School for Boys which is extant today.

From the same store, I was also able to obtain a second-hand copy of "The Story Books of Little Gidding," edited by Miss E. Cruwys Sharland, that bears an abstract of the Ferrar and Collett families of 1600 to 1632. The last letter I received from her was written long-hand from her home at 88 Celia Road, Tufnell Park, London, N. 19., England, January 5, 1931, in which she advised she was eighty years of age

and not well. She passed away a short time later.

From W. Heffer & Sons Ltd., Petty Curry, Cambridge, England, I was able to obtain a second-hand copy of "Nicholas Ferrar, His Household and His Friends," edited by T. T. Carter, M. A. Oxford, England. The Rev. Carter's mother was a Collett. This book is most interesting in that he is able to go into the details of the family life more extensively than most other writers, his book also contains many letters written by John Collett, his wife, Susanna Ferrar Collett, and other members of the Collett family, 1625 to 1650.

From the same store, I was able to obtain a second-hand copy of "Cambridge In The Seventeenth Century," or "The Two Lives Of Nicholas Ferrar," by his brother, John Ferrar and Dr. Jebb, edited by J. E. B. Mayor, M. A. This book is the prize of them all. In addition to the Ferrar family, it also covers the Collett family more fully than others, to illustrate it gives 153 letters written by Susanna Ferrar Collett, as well as letters written by other of the Colletts.

1934 Sir Knight Charles Collett was Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Montague Collett Norman, the present Governor of the Bank of England, mother was a Collett.

In our genealogy work we met with many erratums to contend with, found: Via trita est tutissima, using only such, as data, as stood the test of thorough investigations.

JOHN D. COLLETT

KING'S INNS OF COURT AND CHANCERY

Collett's Inn of Dublin, Ireland, is described as the "first of the King's Inn or Inns of Court, established in Dublin, in the year 1221-22 "as a hostelry for lawyers and law students. William Colet, and his brother Edward, sons of Walter Colet, of England, who established the Dublin King's Inn met with many obstacles to overcome in Ireland. They were extensive property holders. In 1229, William Colet was Mayor of Dublin. In 1232, William Colet, of Collett's Inn, was committed to prison for "assaulting" students. In 1305, disrepute of lawful conduct overtook Edward Colet, of Collett's Inn, of Dublin, in that he was centured to prison for selling a measure of wine at four pence instead of three pence as ordered by proclamation of the justiciary and council. For no known reason, prosecution resolved itself into persecution of the Collett's in Dublin, becoming so great they wound up their business as educators of law, about this time, and returned to England, leaving Colet's Inn to lawyers and law students. In 1362, the Collett Inn of Dublin, was granted to the custody of the Prior and friars of the Augustinian Order of Dublin.

(Gilbert's Documents of Anglo-Normans in Ireland.)
(M. de W. Hemmeon's Burgage Tenure in Ireland.)
(Calender Justiciary Rolls of Ireland.)

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE *Ind. News*

274 The editor welcomes letters, especially brief expressions of opinions on general subjects. Please give the name and address of the sender. The name will not be used if the writer so requests. If the return of unused letters is desired please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Conditions in England

To the Editor of The News:

Noting in The News that Indiana women pilots are ready to take their places beside men in national defense, I am reminded of a letter from my cousin, Henry Collett, in England. The letter says:

"My daughter has been in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, which is composed entirely of women, and is some thousands strong, since the commencement of the war. She is a flight sergeant, and says she has never been happier in her life. The fact is, the authorities look after the men and women in the forces splendidly.

"We have been living in the country and although food is strictly rationed, we, like others, have little to complain about. The English have the faculty of organization, and it is marvelous what a vast voluntary organization has been built up, and how ready every class in the community is to serve in some capacity.

"Our house in London was hit by a bomb, and the upper part rendered uninhabitable, and when we were staying at a farm in this district, a bomb fell close to the house breaking numerous windows, and knocking our host to the ground. Of course I can not describe all that has happened, but I can only say that unless one has experienced this kind of warfare, it is almost impossible to understand what it entails, and the wrecked homes and fortunes are lamentable.

"Taxation is severe . . . However we have much to be thankful for. And as regards the national effort, England is going to win this dreadful war; we must and shall win, though the individual suffering may be great. We must literally fight for freedom in its most literal sense. I fully appreciate all that

the United States has done and is doing. Nothing could be finer, and the people in this country fully realize the sympathetic and generous attitude of you all . . . Indeed without your backing, I dread to think what would have happened, but I do assure you that for your own sakes, all this effort is absolutely necessary, for if we succumbed, it would be your turn next. But I think most of you across the Atlantic realize this."

JOHN D. COLLETT.
Indianapolis.



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record 1 of 1 for search title "genealogy of the descendants of John Collett"

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**Genealogy of the descendants of John Collett, born 1578,
died March 29th, 1659, of Little Gidding and London, England,
and United States of America**
[Collett, John Dunlap] 1862-

Pub date: 1929]**Pages:** 131 p.

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TOP

Collett Family

David H. Ackerman
3410 Harbor Road
Shelburne VT 05482

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REFERENCE

May 17, 2003

Yesterday and today I have studied the library's surname file on the Collett family. However, I could find no mention of the Magnetic Iron Ore Co. or the Tidewater Pipe Co in the Collett family or in any of our local (Vigo County) histories.

Our Collett file does mention some of Josephus Collett's business activities. He is the "Joseph" Collett you are referring to and his life dates are listed as born August 18, 1832 in Vermillion County, Indiana, a son of Stephen S. and Sarah Groenendyke Collett and died in Terre Haute, Indiana February 13, 1893. I've also seen his birth listed as August 17, 1831.

Josephus Collett's business interests were widespread though in his younger years he was responsible for the construction of local railroads with the aid of financier Chauncey Rose. In the 1870's and 80's he expanded his base of operations so that he managed and/or was president of the Genesee Valley R. R. of New York, the Nevada Central RR, the Utah Central Ry., which operated from Salt Lake City to Park City, and a railroad in Texas. His obituary mentions that he had gone "to California for his health" a few years ago and became interested in the Coronado Beach enterprise (hotel) at San Diego and was one of "the chief (financial promoters)." His obituary in the Terre Haute Evening Gazette states "No railroad manager in the country had a better reputation in New York for successful management."

Pg. 487 of H. C. Bradsby's History of Vigo County indicates that Josephus Collett was instrumental in buying the Sanford Tool Co. of Cortland, NY. About 1888 that company was moved to Terre Haute. However, I can't find anything in our files that indicates Collett was a trustee in the Magnetic Iron Ore Co. Since he was in the railroad management business, I can easily understand why he would have been interested in any iron ore mining and steel companies such as the one you mention.

If the Collett Papers still exist I'm not sure where they might be but probably in the Indiana State Library or the Indiana State Historical Society both of which are in Indianapolis. At the former the Richard Wigginton Thompson Papers, 1838-1899, number SC 1914 contain 46 items including correspondence with Josephus Collett. Mr. Thompson, was a Terre Haute attorney for many years and a friend of Abraham Lincoln.

It's also possible that Collett Papers could be at the Eli Lilly Library (part of the Indiana University Library) at Bloomington IN. They have a rare book & manuscript collection.

You might also want to contact Mrs. Marilee Hagan, Director, Vigo County Historical Society, 1411 s. 6th St., Terre Haute, IN 47802. In case you should decide to telephone them (832) 235-9717 their hours are 1 - 4 P.M. six days a week. Closed Monday. They might have Collett information though I am inclined to believe that it would be genealogical.

David H. Ackerman
May 17, 2003
Page two

If you are interested I could send you a copy of Josephus Collett's obituary for a dollar. If you send two dollars I could send you a few additional items such as the quote from pg. 487 of Bradsby. Most of what we have is genealogical though since a Collett was Lord Mayor of London c.1580. Josephus Collett was a bachelor so there aren't any direct descendants. He had siblings that had children but those people are also dead now, and it would be rather difficult to determine where their descendants might be.

David N. Lewis
SpC Research Ass't

DAVID H. ACKERMAN

3410 HARBOR ROAD
SHELBURNE, VT 05482
802-985-8214

Recd 5-13-03
no SASE

Librarian
Terre Haute Library
Library Square
Terre Haute, IN 47807

May 10, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Not in Dorrel
I'm writing to inquire whether your Library has any record of one Joseph Collett who was apparently a resident of Terre Haute back in 1883. Mr. Collette was a Trustee of a firm known as Magnetic Iron Ore Company, which was involved in an iron mining venture in St. Lawrence County, NY. The undertaking was headed by Byron D. Benson, my Great Grandfather. The latter was initially based in Brewerton, NY and subsequently in Titusville, PA.

If the foregoing provides no leads, it's possible Mr. Collett's connection with my Grandfather may have been associated with the Tidewater Pipe Company, which the latter formed at about the same time as the mining venture above. In about 1908, the Pipe Co. extended its oil pipeline operations west from Pennsylvania across the State of Indiana.

Finally, let me explain that I am currently writing the history of the foregoing northern New York iron ore enterprise, which actually had its beginnings 140 years ago! Anything which you may provide that explains Mr. Collett's involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Not in Dorrel
2003
140
1863

Alternatively, if Terre Haute has an historical society, perhaps such a source may be able to provide the information I seek.

Thank you for your time! Sincerely,

David H. Ackerman
David H. Ackerman

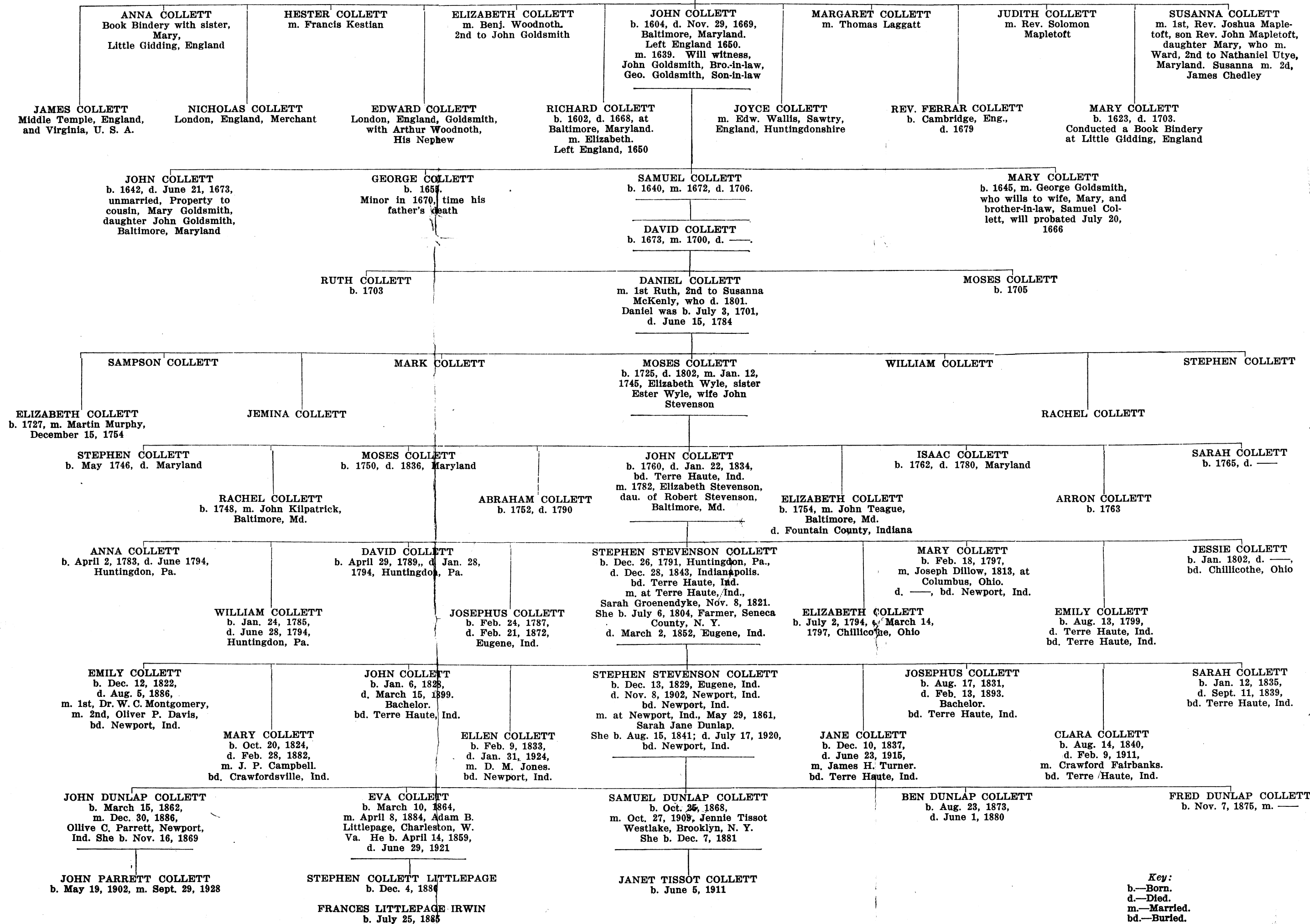
Bradshy - Josephus Collett was instrumental in buying
487 the Sanford Iron Co. of Cortland, NY
They moved the Co. to TH c. 1888.

Bradshy 533 Josephus was V.-Pres. of [Rose-Hulman]

590 - Pres. of C. and G. A. ^{Feb. 13,}
(1832-1893)

(706) Josephus is son of Stephen S. Collett & gr of John Collett
" He built the Genesee Valley RR of New York.
served as supt of the Nevada Central RR for 2 yrs & pres of
another RR in Texas
He gave TH about 22 acres: Collett Park.
Interested in geology & archaeology.

JOHN COLLETT
Of London; Merchant; and Little Gidding, England. B. 1578, d. March 29, 1659. Age 79.
Married Susanna Ferrar, 1600, of Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England.
She was b. 1580, and d. October 9, 1657. Age 76.



Josephus Collett

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

JOSEPHUS COLLETT

Mr. Josephus Collett was born in Vermillion county, Ind., August 14, 1831. When a young man he engaged in several business ventures in Terre Haute and became interested in transportation, which was an important thing at the time. Through the help of Mr. Chauncey Rose he succeeded in getting the Evansville, Terre Haute and Chicago railroad built and became its president. The road became very prosperous under his management. He was very free with his money in aiding his city and gave a very beautiful park of several acres to the city, which was named for him.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

GEN.

Collett & Company
Incorporated
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Telephone Market 2428

Indianapolis, Ind.

January, 31st, 1939.

Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library,
Miss. Florence Crawford, Librarian,
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Miss. Crawford:-

October, 30th, '38, I received a letter from Dr. Maycock, Cambridge University, England, advising he had found in the Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Ferrar Papers, MSS. two letters written by John Collett, in 1650, that had never been reproduced to the public, of which he would be pleased to send me photostats of, if desired. Copies of which you will please find enclosed for your files. Also note photostat of Dr. Maycock's letter to me upon his gift.

The first letter written by John Collett, to his sister Mary, at Little Giddings, is dated May, 9th, 1650. The second letter he writes is from Amsterdam, Holland, to his Uncle John Ferrar, at Little Gidding, is dated July, 14th, 1650. John Collett, the writer of said letters; my eighth removed grandfather; was the son of John and Susanna Ferrar Collett, of London, and of Little Gidding, England. This letter is one of the most remarkable finds I have made in my genealogy work upon the Collett family, giving a direct contact therewith. The relations given therein with the Virginia Colony gives much of interest had with its citizens which shows they were with contentment in a land of plenty.

John Collett, born in London, England 1604, married Ann Goldsmith, of London, 1639, with his family and brothers, Richard and James Collett, came to Virginia, 1650. He died at Baltimore, Maryland, November, 29th, 1669. His father's letter, to him, from Virginia, "giving great commendations of the country," may have been the means of John - Richard - James, as emigrants in the year 1650.

Dr. A. L. Maycock / home address Elton Lodge, Great Shelford, Cambridge, England, / recently published a Biography of Nicholas Ferrar, Jr., his work, in doing so, developed the find made in the MSS. of the John Collett letters. My name, and address, was acquired through F. R. Hammond, writer for the New York Times, Book Review, by Dr. Maycock.

Respectfully yours,

John D. Collett
John D. Collett,

JDC/mm

825 S. Main St.

New Harmony, Ind. 47631

September 17, 1970

Miss Elizabeth C. Ross
Pige Co. Public Library
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Miss Ross:

I feel like shouting "Eureka!" I think you have found "the missing link to complete the pattern," as Dr. I. once remarked. Thank you for going beyond duty to help me.

Fortunately I have found the key to Blatchley's condemnation of Cox as a scientist. Now, all I need to do is to search the papers of that date — and perhaps Blatchley's story of coal in Indiana. I don't know yet, but I do have a good feeling I am close to the answer.

It is rather significant that the
Historical Society chose Vigo Blast
Furnace for this month's Bulletin,
isn't it.

Thanks also for Mr. J. Collett's
address in Indianapolis. I have written
him and hope fervently he will
know the whereabouts of the Collett
Family Papers. I shall let you
know when I hear ^{rather} ~~or~~ what I
hear from him.

I trust the U. S. Steel book you
generously permitted to take with me
has arrived safely.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Fleming

(Mrs. J. M. Fleming, Jr.)

P. S. N. Y. Public Library was unable to identify
'Mr. Briggs' as Gen. R. F. Briggs.

825 South Main Street
New Harmony, Indiana 47631
September 10, 1970

Dear Miss Ross,

My day in Terre Haute turned out to be even more productive than I had first thought. The obituary of Josephus Collett, also the sketch, listed the railroads he and his brother Stephen had built, which, of course, included the one in Texas. However, there was no mention of their having invested in Mexican railroads.

The real estate listed included ^{some in} Coronado Beach, California as well as Florida. Those two tease me as I wonder what Cox could have had in connection with those two places, since he lived first in California, ¹⁸⁷⁸ then in New York City, then in Florida. ^{1890's} I noted elsewhere that Leo Lesquereux had owned an interest in ¹⁹⁰⁵ the Coronado Beach Hotel.

Of course, my great disappointment was finding no Collett Papers in the library. It had come to me in the middle of the night several weeks before I went to Atlanta that there, surely, would be the repository of Cox's prospectus for his proposed Mexican railway, ^{about which he} had written to Josephus Collett for advice, and possibly Collett's answer. I shall write Miss Dunn, perhaps she may have heard about such papers in another library.

The U.S. Steel books gave me the necessary background to use as a setting for several Cox activities. I still need to find out what part Indiana's block coal played in the development of the steel industry in Indiana. In 1873 when Cox wrote a booklet to distribute in Vienna at the Universal Exhibition, he stated that "recently 3000 tons of pig iron" was sent from Braxil iron works to Cambria Bessemer, Johnstown, Pa., to be made into steel rails. I know he hoped to attract capital to build such plants in Indiana. But did that happen? Gary dates ~~from~~ 1905.

I shall put your book into today's mail as soon as I xerox the pages. My deepest thanks and appreciation for your kindness. I did enjoy meeting you at last.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Robson Fleming
(Mrs. James M. Fleming, Jr.)

COPY

September 10, 1970

Dear Mrs. Fleming:

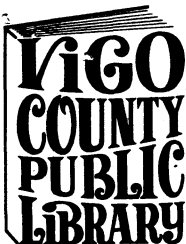
I telephoned Mrs. Ben Cox, whose father was Josephus Collett Davis, and she told me that the family genealogist is John P. Collett of Indianapolis. She did not have his address, but I looked it up in the Indianapolis telephone book, which I am sorry to say, was a 1968 one. At any rate, his office is in the Fletcher Trust Building. (John P. Collett Investments), and his home address is 3663 Spring Hollow Road.

If he does not know of the John Collet papers, I wonder if you have tried the Lilly Library (Rare Books) at Indiana University. Mr. David Randall is the head of it, and they specialize in collecting manuscripts and books of early Indiana.

It was good to see you here, and I hope that you can visit us again before long.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Ross
Hd. Local History Dept.



August 31, 1970

Mrs. J.M. Fleming, Jr.
825 South Main Street
New Harmony, Indiana 47631

Dear Mrs. Fleming:

The information you requested from our local history librarian, Miss Elizabeth Ross, will be sent to you some time after September 8. Miss Ross has been on vacation and her mail is being held for her return.

We hope this delay will not inconvenience you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Betty C. Martin
Assistant Director
Vigo County Public Library
222 North Seventh Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47801

BM/sds

825 South Main Street
New Harmony, Indiana 47631
August 4, 1970

Miss Elizabeth C. Ross
Head Local History Department
Vigo County Public Library
222 North 7th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47801

Dear Miss Ross:

I am going to Atlanta this coming weekend. When I return I plan to drive up to Terre Haute to search for further material for my E. T. Cox story, for which you have already given me valuable aid. Will you let me know if there is anything that will help me on the following?

I found a rough draft of a letter Cox had written to Josephus Collett, in which he described a proposed railroad he was promoting to be built in Mexico to join one that General U. S. Grant had built or was building. I wonder if you have the Collett papers. Perhaps there would be the original letter and Collett's answer to him.

I am also interested in finding out Collett's activities in railroad building in Texas, and if he went into Mexico for mines or railroads at all. The date of his Texas involvement will be helpful.

I am also interested in learning in detail about the building of railroads in Indiana - who, when, where, and especially the type rails used. Was the wooden rail in use at the time? Or had they begun the use of the iron rim on wooden rails? Or did they use cast iron rails? Or did they import steel rails from England? Did Indiana have anything to do with manufacturing steel rails made by the Bessemer process?

In Cox's papers I find a newsclipping, THE COURANT, circa 1873, "An American Engineer - The Bessemer Process." Alexander Lyman Holley spent a year with Bessemer in Sheffield, England, learning the process. Holley arranged for the purchase of the Bessemer patents with privilege of using them in America for a wealthy company in New England. In 1865 he constructed experimental works in Troy, N. Y., improved upon and carried to a higher degree of perfection the production of Bessemer steel, and introduced to our railroad companies the first Bessemer American rails. In 1867 he built the works in Harrisburg, and a little later planned the works in Pittsburg, the Vulcan in St. Louis, and was consulting engineer in the designing of the Cambria, Bethlehem, and Scranton works. R.W. Hunt summarizes Holley's improvements in the Bessemer process in his HISTORY OF BESSEMER MANUFACTURE IN AMERICA, Trans. Am. I of M. E., Vol. V, p. 201. Do you have a copy of this book?

In 1873 Cox was appointed commissioner from Indiana to the Vienna, Austria, Universal Exposition. Cox wrote of the Indiana samples of coal on exhibition (from Terre Haute, Brazil, etc.): "I have seen none which, in my opinion, equals in every respect the coal found in Indiana, and no pig iron superior to that made

in Clay county."

In his FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIANA, 1873, Cox wrote: "The coal and iron, especially the fine large cubes of black coal, were examined with the greatest interest by the European iron-masters, and was of no less interest to the International jury who were appointed to examine into the character and merits of all the minerals on exhibition. This jury was made up of distinguished geologists and mining engineers from the different countries, and after a careful examination of its merits made the State (Indiana) an award of a medal." This medal (there are two in his collection in Old Fauntleroy Home here) may be seen presently in New Harmony.

In this same report, Cox asked Hugh Hartmann, CE from Rhenish Prussia, - one of the most important iron manufacturing districts of Europe - to write for his 1873 REPORT a paper, titled "Spiegeleisen Manufacturing," a detailed study of smelting and mining in Europe, followed by a discussion of Spiegeleisen manufacturing, and the facilities in Indiana which this State offered to iron producers. Hartmann stated that "the producing of a pig iron, adapted for the Bessemer process of steel-making, are marvellously combined in her natural resources as well as her other particularities." He added, "There can be no doubt as to her (Indiana's) future magnitude. She will be a great iron producing State and the future seat of American steel making." Hartmann predicted that America would soon find it unnecessary to import Bessemer steel from England for use here as "Indiana will be the State where not only the crude metal for Bessemer will be produced, but where also the steel manufacturing process itself will open a new era to her health and wealth."

So I want to find out: Did Hartmann's prophecy prove to be true? Did Indiana become a great steel producing state? If so, when? How much influence did Cox have upon its development, if any? Did his estimate of black coal beds in Indiana prove true? What effect did it have on railroad development in Indiana, if any?

I found in the printout from the Terre Haute Daily Gazette, August 18, 1871, describing the meeting of the excursionists to Indiana's coal fields, American Association for the Advancement of Science (which you sent me), a mention under PERSONNEL: "Mr. Briggs, formerly commercial editor of the New York Tribune, but now a heavy Wall street capitalist, is in the city, the guest of Col. Thomas Dowling."

Is there any identification of "Mr. Briggs?" Could he possibly be General R. F. Briggs? This Civil War veteran figures in the Cox papers when Cox was in California in the 1880's. I have been trying to identify him and his activities. As you know, after the War many soldiers went West and played a prominent part in quickly developing the new land. They also went into Mexico. Railroad companies were formed and frequently were sponsored by generals who lent their name and prestige to these projects. Cox's proposed railroad, about which he wrote Josephus Collett of Terre Haute would have joined General U. S. Grant's Mexican

National from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas. I have found nothing to indicate his plan materialized. But he did plan to write a prospectus, which I hope was sent to Collett and possibly preserved by him.

I know that W. A. Simmons and George W. Simmons, Jr. of Boston, Eastern capitalists, who invested in Cox's Sonora Antimony (copper) Mines in Mexico, were connected with General Briggs. And, I hope, this Briggs is the "Mr. Briggs" visiting Col. Thomas Dowling, August 18, 1871, in Terre Haute during the coal fields excursion of The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

I shall look forward to seeing you as soon as I return from Atlanta. I shall call beforehand to find out if you are there. My deepest appreciation to you.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Fleming

(Mrs. J. M. Fleming, Jr.)

April 30, 1883 Letter

CAPITAL, \$100,000.

Second National Bank,

Danville, Ill., April 30th 1883

Whereas William H. Stewart made & delivered
a certain lease to Josephus Collett dated 25th May
1880, beginning selling & conveying unto said
Collett his heirs & assigns for the term of
20 years from date thereof all the coal
lying in upon & under a certain tract of
land situate in Porter County Indiana
described as follows to wit the South West
quarter of the North West quarter of Section
Twelve & the South East quarter of the North
East quarter of Section fourteen (14) all
in Township 14 North of Range
No Nine (9) West containing in all 80 acres
and which lease was assigned & delivered
to the undersigned William H. Cannon & Joseph
Cannon by said Collett,
and whereas said assignees desire to
"abandon said land, huming it" now you
will take notice that on & after 30 days from the
service hereof the undersigned will cease to
mine said coal upon said land &
abandon same as provided they may by the

Wm. J. Danielson
Wm. J. Danielson in duplicate

J. William Stewart

William H. Alexander,

William S. Dancer

Joseph H. Hannon

Received from the
May 1st 1880
and



CORNELIUS W. HAUCK
8400 Summerhouse Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

October 25, 1975

Vigo County Historical Society
1411 South 6th Street
Terre Haute, Ind. 47802

Gentlemen:

I have been researching the history of an obscure narrow gauge railroad in Utah, the Utah Central Ry., which ran between Salt Lake City and Park City from 1890 to 1898, when it was absorbed by the Rio Grande Western Railroad.

Somewhat to my surprise I find that the President of the Railway (until it was placed in receivership) was one Joseph Collett, reported to be a resident of Terre Haute. It is not clear to me how a resident of Terre Haute came to be President of this road, as the road was built by local (Utah) Mormons under the leadership of Joseph C. Smith. Perhaps Mr. Collett represented eastern investors or a bank -- unless there was an LDS Church faction in Terre Haute at that period?

I would be very much interested to learn if your files have any material on Mr. Collett; or on the Utah Central Railway, including records, correspondence, photographs or other material.

Or, would there be any other potential sources in Terre Haute? Names and addresses of any known descendents of Mr. Collett would also be very welcome.

Yours very truly,

Cornelius W. Hauck

indirect

B. Collett

you G. Coy Sr

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

GEN.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

November 3, 1975

Mr. Cornelius W. Hauck
8400 Summerhouse Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Dear Mr. Hauck:

We received your letter of October 25 requesting information about Joseph Collett. I have copied what we have available for you. We do not have any information on the Utah Central Railway.

There are no direct descendants since Mr. Collett was a bachelor. However, Mrs. Dorothy Clark, our local historian, has given me the following reference as being a descendant of the family.

Mr. Benjamin G. Cox, attorney
701 Merchants National Bank Building
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

There is a 40¢ charge for the copies enclosed. We hope this information will be of some help to you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy W. Jerse (Mrs.)
Curator



CORNELIUS W. HAUCK
8400 Summerhouse Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

November 8, 1975

Mrs. Dorothy W. Jerse
Vigo County Historical Society
1411 South Sixth Street
Terre Haute, Ind. 47802

Dear Mrs. Jerse:

I greatly appreciated receiving your letter and biographical data on Josephus Collett. I am enclosing a dollar to defray costs of Xeroxing and postage.

My only reference, when I wrote you, was a listing of officers of the Utah Central Railway for November 1, 1891, showing "Jos. Collett, President, Terre Haute, Indiana". Apparently from the data you sent, Mr. Collett was active in many railroad ventures throughout the 1870's and 1880's.

I appreciate having Mr. Cox's name, and will write to him also at the first opportunity.

Yours very truly,

Cornelius W. Hauck

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

REFERENCE
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London the 9 May 1650

Respected Sister

Brings home to London should I omit the perusalment
of my^r and my wife's due respects unto you I
can show my selfe very gratefull for all those
favours & services from you, but w^{ch} that I
shall requitall w^{ch} I desire maye be amongst
such time as god shall enable me to make
to satisfaction: Dear sister I am heartily & very
sorrowfull that you are so sickly but it shall be
the prayer of your good brother to Almighty
god to restore you to your former health. Dear
sister I desire you would be pleased to present
my humble duty to all my honored parents w^{ch}
my respects to all friendsells: I praye tell my
brother Nicholas my wife wrote me word this
week that she had received the tokens from
the Virginia men w^{ch} are there and she will
send them forward for London by the first
shippinge. There is likewise a letter to my Aunt
Haward from Virginia w^{ch} came by a ship that
is some where in the west of England. I should
have been very joyfull to have seen all my
friends at biddinge but I find time will hardly
give me leave. I have some Brushes for you
and so soon as I gett them from the ship I
shall send them: So wth my best respects to
you committing you to the protection of the Almighty
he is ever your most Obedient Brother

John Cotton

Elton Lodge
St. Shelford
Cambridge
England.

3. 12. 38

Dear Mr. Collett

I was very much interested in your kind letter and in the various papers that accompanied it. You must be very proud of so long and distinguished a family history.

Under separate cover I am sending photostats of 2 autograph letters of John Collett's from the Magdalene College MSS., and I hope you will find them interesting. One is written to his uncle, John Farrar, and the other to one of his sisters, - it must, I think, have been Mary Collett. Unfortunately the latter one is rather badly torn. Please let me know if there is any other information that I could supply.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours sincerely

Alraycock

In Amsterdam y^e 14 of July 1630
Honored Sir

I being come safe to Amsterdam god be praised
I according to your desire have bene intreated sent
you my ffathers letter from Virginia w^{ch} a friend
of myne w^{ch} is now at my house brought from him
he likewise as well as my ffather give you great
commendations of y^e country he judgeth in 5 or
6 weekes god willing to returne againe he telleth
me that they have all things very plentifully there
and that if men will be industrious that would be
made as beneficiall a Land as any but he sayth
they are so set upon tobacco that they will not
out of their way for cattell he sayth that every
one hath more then sufficient to supply his wants
he sayth he hath bin sold more cattell then
he knoweth wth to doe wth so that they want for
the woods and dry up for want of Milling
and if he should keep servants to milt
every man his so much of his owne
he should not lose his better w^{ch} he
he should make. Concerninge the contract
is a friend of myne that had lately a letter
from thence w^{ch} writeth that they are all in
ambustions some for Kinge and some for parson.
So there is like to be great troubles there
for the mapes you desire I shall endeavour to
gett them and send them y^e first. But I am
but just come home and have not had the
time to looke after them, I^r I shall be diligent
to make farther Inquiry about your queries
and according as I am informed I shall give
you A full relation, thus desiring you to
be pleased to make presentment of my humble
duty and respects to all friends In generall
wth my humble duty to your selfe be wth
it is your dutifull Nephew to Command

John Rolfe

Photostat.
Annapolis, Maryland, original Will Record,

104

In the Name of God Amen.

The last will and Testament of me John Collett being in full
mind and memory Blessed be God -

First I bequeath my Soul into the hands of my Blessed Maker
and Redeemer at what hour and time he shall please to call for it,
Next my Body to our Mother Earth, there if possible by my dear
wife to be interred.

Next I make my two Eldest Sons Samuel Collett and John Collett
my Sole Executors to see this my last Will performed & executed
and my Debts to my first paid I do give and bequeath unto my
three Sons my whole Estate as followeth.

First I give and bequeath unto my eldest Son Samuel my Part
or Mogg of a Tract of Land being 500 acres taken up by me
and my Brother in Law M^r George Fox Smith also I give unto
him my part of Three hundred acres of Land lying in ~~the~~ ^{Trane}
Creeks in Baltimore County. The former 500 acres here specified
lying in the River in the County of. also there are several
tracts of Land which are taken up in his Name and sent into the
Office Surveyed upon Rights due to me which are proved in the
Office which I give and assign over unto my said Son Samuel.
Next I give and bequeath unto my son John Collett two tracts

105

(f)

Lib. No. 1.

106

of Land Lying in Sasparay River near the head of the River taken
up in my Name each of them 250 acres apiece also a seal of Land
Lying in Gunpowder River being 600 acres which he is already
possessed with it being taken up upon my Rights it being patented
in his Name which rights I assigne over unto him.
Next I give unto my Youngest Son George Collett this Plantation
I do now Live upon he to be possessed therewith at the age of one
and twenty years till which time to be in the possession of his
other Brothers to Live upon it, as they shall think fitt also I give
unto my said Son George Collett the houseing and orchard belong-
ing to the said Plantation and a man servant three Cows and
six Sows the first Mare Colt that any of my Mares shall bring
that and her increase to go for his profit and benefit and in case
the Mares do bring none a Mare Colt, then his Brothers are
to buy him a young Mare when is at age of of Eighteen years
also I give unto my said Son a feather Bed and furniture to it and
a thousand pounds of Tobacco for other Necessaries towards house
keeping also a Seat of Land Lying in Gunpowder River -
Called Georges Hill taken up in his Name upon my Rights
which I give and assigne unto him and if in Case my said Son
Dye before he come to Age then his two Brothers equally to -
Enjoy his part.

107.

Next I give unto my two Sons Samuall and John all my
Goods Debts Chattells Moveables and Immoveables or any
thing that is or can be Called Mine or Belonging to me to be
equally divided between them Samuall being to take his share
Only particularly I give unto Samuall his Mothers Wedding
Ring and my Seal Ring and a Silver Beare Cupp and to my
Son John a Silver Wine Cupp also my Will and desire is
that my Sonn George may be brought up with his two Broth-
ers and I earnestly enjoin them to teach him to Read and
Write and in Confirmation of this my last Will and Testament
I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this 31st day of Decr.
In the year of our Lord God Annoq^{uo} Dom. One Thousand
Six hundred Sixty nine
Signed, sealed and delivered
in the Presence of
John I. R. Boones
his Marke
John Collett. (Sealed)
Jerome I. D. Dangerfield his Marke
Sam. Gould Smith

(Oct^r)

Lib. No. 1.

108.

October 23rd 1070

Wherein written will of John Collett was by the oaths of
John Reeves and Jeremiah Dangerfield Witnesses therunto
in Common forme proved before me the day and year

7 Sides above written

Wm. Gilbert.

LAST SERVICES FOR STEPHEN S. COLLETT

Prominent Member of an Historic
Indiana Family

THREE EMINENT BROTHERS

S. S. Collett Was Son of One of Terre
Haute's Pioneer Merchants—
His Sisters Live Here

The Newport Hoosier State, in its last issue, contained the following notice, of interest to Terre Haute people, of the death and burial of Stephen S. Collett, of Newport, the father of Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks and Mrs. James H. Turner, of this city, whose family has been associated with Terre Haute from its earliest history:

One of the largest attended funerals that has taken place in Newport for many years was that of Stephen S. Collett, at 1 o'clock last Monday afternoon, from his late residence.

Mr. Collett had been an invalid for the past two years, and had to be wheeled about the streets in an invalid chair. His life had been slowly ebbing away until death ended his earthly existence at 9:38 a. m. last Saturday, November 8, 1902.

He was born in Eugene township, this county, December 13, 1829, making his age at the time of his death, 72 years, 10 months and 25 days.

His father, Stephen Stevenson Collett, was born in Pennsylvania, December 26, 1791, and came to this state in 1818 with his brother, Josephus. He was appointed deputy United States surveyor for a part of Indiana territory, and surveyed the counties of Owen, Putnam, Montgomery and Tippecanoe. Afterwards he engaged in the mercantile business at Terre Haute under the firm name of Linton & Collett and (Chauncey) Rose & Collett. The latter firm had extensive business relations with John Jacob Astor, who then had his headquarters at Mackinac. They sold him fur. In 1827 he moved to Eugene, of which village plat he was the first proprietor, and where he engaged in shipping farm products to New Orleans by flatboat. He was chosen as a Whig of the Henry Clay school to represent Vermillion county in the house of representatives for the sessions of '33 and '35. He was then a senator from Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties in 1835-6, and from Parke and Vermillion in 1842-4. He died December 28, 1843, at Browning's hotel, Indianapolis, while serving as state senator of the Indiana legislature. Both houses met in joint session and adopted appropriate resolutions, eulogizing the many noble traits of character of the dead senator. Senator Bradley paid the deceased a glowing tribute. Also Representative Tom Dowling of Vigo county. His children consisted of three sons and five daughters, as follows: John, who served as state senator from Parke and Vermillion and as state geologist; Josephus, who built the E., T. H. & C. railroad and for many years was president of the road; Stephen S., who was a successful farmer and cashier of the First

onal bank at this place for many years; Emily, who married Dr. W. G. Montgomery, and after his death the son, O. P. Davis; Mary, who married J. P. Campbell of Crawfordsville, a successful dry goods merchant; Ellen, who married D. M. Jones, a prominent attorney and politician of Newport; Jennie, who married James H. Turner of Terre Haute, a prominent citizen of that city; Clara, who married Crawford Fairbanks, a wealthy citizen of Terre Haute, who is connected with many business interests in that city and elsewhere.

Our deceased fellow citizen, Stephen S. Collett, whose remains were consigned to their last resting place on last Monday afternoon, in the Thomas cemetery, lived an honorable and upright life. There was no truer or better friend to the worthy and deserving poor. He never sought notoriety in his acts of charity, but wanted the matter kept a secret between himself and the one benefited. Many deserving persons has he aided that no one else was ever the wiser of. He believed in the scriptural way of bestowing charity, and did not let his right hand know what he was doing with his left. This noble and generous hearted man was laid away in a finely finished and beautiful red cedar casket covered with black cloth. The display of flowers was the prettiest collection ever seen in this place. Mr. Collett was partial to red cedar wood, and always kept a stock of it on hand for whitening material. During his long illness he whittled out many hundreds of beautiful paper cutters with his pocket knife, on which appeared his name and date of his birth, which he gave to his friends all over this county when they called on him during his illness. He had been in active business so long that he had an extensive acquaintance, and every person in the county knew Mr. Collett and was his warm personal friend.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Transcript, Old English, to modern English, letters
written by John Collett, May and July, 1650.
by John D. Collett.

LONDON THE 9 MAY 1650.

Respected Sister:

Being come to London should I omit the presentment of my and my wifes due respects unto you I should show my self very ungrateful for all those undeserved favors received from you but which share I in thanks a poor requital which I desire may be accepted for such time as God shall enable me to make later satisfaction. Dear sister I am heartily sorry to hear that you are so sickly but it shall be the prayer of your poor brother to Almighty God to restore you to your former health. Dear sister I desire you would be pleased to present my humble duty to all my honored parents with my respects to all friends else: I pray tell my brother Nicholas my wife wrote ^{me} word this week that she had received the tokens from the Virginia men which are there and she will send them forward for London by the first shippings, here is likewise a letter to my Uncle Ferrar from Virginia which came by a ship that is some where in the west of England. I should have been very joyful to have seen all my friends at Giding but I fear time will hardly give me leave. I have some Brushes for you and so soon as I get them from the ship I shall send them. So with my best respects to you committing you to the protection of the Almighty, he rest ye, is ever your most obliging brother.

John Collett ##

IN AMSTERDAM YR 14 OF JULY 1650.

Honorable Uncle:

I being come safe to Amsterdam God be praised. I according to your desire have here inclosed sent you my fathers letter from Virginia which a friend of mine which is now at my house brought from him, he likewise, as well as my father, giveth great commendations of the country, he intendeth in 5 or 6 weeks, God willing, to return again. He telleth me that they have all things very plentiful there, and that if men will be industrious that would be made as beneficial a land as any but he sayeth they are so set upon tobacco that they will not go out of their way for cattle. He sayeth that every one hath more than sufficient to supply his wants, he sayeth he hath him self more cattle than he knoweth what to do with so that they run in the woods and dry up for want of milking and ~~that~~ if he should keep servants to milk then every man haveth so much of his own milkings he should not sell his butter nor cheese that he should make. Concerning the berthage tax there is a friend of mine that had lately a letter from thence which writes that they are all in combustion, some for King and some for Parliament, so there is likely to be great trouble there. For the maps you desire I shall endeavor to get them and send them you first, but I am but just come home and have not had the time to look after them, Sir I shall be dilligent to make further inquiry about your queries and accordingly as I am informed I shall give you a full relation. Thus desiring you be pleased to make presentment of my humble duty and respects to all friends in general, with my humble duty to your self, he rest ye, is your dutiful nephew to command.

John Collett ##

Collett & Company
Incorporated

Fletcher Trust Building
Telephone Market 2428

Indianapolis, Ind.

December, 18th, 1939.

Miss. Florence Crawford, Librarian,
Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library,
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Miss. Crawford:

In reply to your favor 15th, inst., please find herewith photostat of the will of John Collett, taken from the original records at Annapolis, Maryland, dated October, 31st, 1669, Probated October, 29th, 1670, certified by Will Calvert, son of George Calvert - Lord Baltimore - of Maryland. This, the will of John Collett, who wrote the two letters; one May, 9th, 1650, one July, 14th, 1650, of which you have photostats of in your files.

Apropos to letter written July, 14th, 1650, from Amsterdam, Holland, to his Uncle John Ferrar* of Little Gidding, Cambridgeshire, England, transcript was submitted to Mr. Henry Collett, London, England, and approved as written. This letter is of marked interest as it shows that his father was in Virginia upon an inspection trip to see if the Virginia Colony would be a suitable place for his sons John, Richard and James, all of whom emigrated thereto, later in 1650. For a time John Collett, lived in Amsterdam, Holland, as the representative for his grandfather Nicholas Ferrar, Sr. of London, England, a merchant and foreign trader, who carried on an extensive Tobacco Trade between Virginia Colony, and Holland. England was greatly exercised over the loss of the tobacco trade and in 1651 and 1652, parliament sent out a Commission with an armed force which subdued Virginia by suspending the government under Sir. William Berkely, and the tobacco trade was returned to England.

During the twelve years I have corresponded with Henry Collett, I have been able to place in his hands copy our book, The Descendants Of John Collett, with Appendix. Many News Paper articles upon U.S.A. Colletts. Photographs of a number of the family. Three, quarterly copies, Volume XXIV, two, quarterly copies, Volume XXV, Maryland Historical Magazine, containing articles by Louis Dow Scisco upon "The Earliest Records of Baltimore", that cover something of the Colonial Colletts. Copy The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, No. 1. Volume, XLVII, bearing article p. 78 - 81, "Ferrar-Collett Families." Photostats of the two John Collett letters of 1650, with transcripts, and of his will probated Annapolis Maryland, 1670, and other matter. September, 10, 1939, Mr. Henry Collett wrote me, that all of the foregoing, together with several of my letters relating to the U.S.A. Colletts, were incorporated by him into an appropriate folder and filed with the British Museum Genealogy Department, North Room, London, England, captioned "Collett Family History, U.S.A. Volume IV.", for use posterity, that Volumes 1 - 11 - 111, on file at the same place relate to the French and English branches of the Colletts.

Miss Florence Crawford, 2.

To me, the find of Mr. Henry Collett, 64, Cornhill, London, E.C.3, England, a collateral of my branch of the English family, through Miss. E. Cruwys Sharland, 8, Celia Road, Tufnell Park, London, N.19, England, has been one of the greatest I have met with in all my years of work upon the genealogy of the U.S.A. and English Colletts and the collaterals relating thereto. For the filing of the family records with the British Museum Genealogy Department, by Henry, I am most grateful. Terre Haute, has its place of recognition in such record.

Respectfully yours,

John D. Collett
John D. Collett.

*"Nicholas Ferrar-Two Lives." By his brother John Ferrar and Doctor Jebb. Published by J.E.B. Mayor, M.A. Cambridge, England, 1855. p.1 to 286, with Appendix p.290 to 396. Many of the English Colletts are covered in this book, some of which are the parents of the Virginia Colonial Colletts; with 153, Collett letters.

"Little Gidding and Its Founder." Published by Henry Collett, 1925.

"The Ferrar Papers Containing the Life of Nicholas Ferrar." Published by Professor B. Blackstone, M.A., Ph.D. of Trinity College, Cambridge University England, 1938. This book contains many letters, reproduced in script, of several of the English Colletts.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Genealogy Received by Mary Florence Davis
from John D. Collett of Indianapolis

For the first time in our seven years' correspondence, Henry Collett has given some information as to himself, when he says in one late letter, "I am more or less retired from business and rarely go to 64, Cornhill, although that is still my business address. I am a widower and live very quietly now-a-days at my present address. I shall be 65 years of age this coming May. I have two children, a boy, Anthony Alsager Collett, age 26, who is in Drummonds Bank, 49, Charing Cross Road, London, and a girl, aged 30, who is a widow / no children / and lives in the country. I am adding Miss Mary Florence Davis to my manuscripts; also adding to my manuscripts notes taken from the article you sent me upon the death of your nephew, Stephen Collett Littlepage, who appears to have been a splendid type of man and unfortunate that he should be called away at the age of 50 years; as Judge of the Criminal Court of West Virginia; last May."

In another letter Henry Collett writes, "My collection of books on Nicholas Ferrar and Little Gidding, some fifteen in number, which include a bound volume of manuscript notes (here you and Judge Collett Littlepage will come in), photographs and press cuttings entitled 'Little Gidding Collectanes' and manuscripts, notes, on Little Gidding Manor, I have bequeathed by Will to Clare College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, and they will eventually find a home in the Library of that College. They will, nevertheless, be accessible to any person who may be interested in the subject." And sends me by mail: Photograph of the Monument in the parish church of St. Martin, Chelsfield, Kent, England, to Peter Collett, containing kneeling effigies of himself, his wife, and their two daughters. In the Latin inscription he is described as 'Armiger' and Alderman of the City of London, and of the ancient family of Collett, who died 21 December, 1607, aged 64, leaving two daughters, wife Hester, Peter Collett was an uncle of John Collett, who married Susanna Ferrar, your ninth removed grandparents. Also, sent photograph of an oil painting of Mrs. Susanna Ferrar Collett, born 1581 died 1657, and child. She was the mother of John and Richard Collett who came to Maryland, U. S. A. 1650, the original portrait is in the possession of Lord Lyell of London, a descendant of the Ferrars, was painted by Cornelius Jansen who painted portraits of Nicholas and Mary Woodnoth Ferrar, parents of Susanna Ferrar Collett, all of which are hung in the Master's Lodge, Magdalen College, Cambridge. Also, sent photograph of an oil painting of John Ferrar of Little Gidding, who died 1657, a brother of Nicholas Ferrar (Jr.) the original portrait is in possession of Lord Lyell, of London. Also, sent photograph of Tomb in St.

Genealogy--2

Dunstan's Church, Stelney, London, of Sir Henry Collett, Knight, who was Lord Mayor of London, two terms, 1486 and 1495, and was the father of Dr. John Collett, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, the Collett coat of arms granted to Sir Henry Collett in 1486 are to be seen in Little Gidding Church, in the parish church of St. Martin, Chelsfield, Kent, on Peter Collett's tomb, also on the tomb of Thomas Collett, Barrister, who died in 1675. Also, sent photograph of Tomb in old St. Paul's Cathedral, London, of Rev. John Collett, Dean of St. Paul's and founder and fully endower of St. Paul's School for Boys which is extant to-day, Dr. John was born 1467 and died 1519, is buried to the left of the Alter Tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral, stone marked "John Collett."

Failing to be able to buy some out-of-print books wanted upon the Ferrar-Collett families in this country, I have been able to buy the following books in England, as second-hand books:

Bought of W. Heffer & Sons Ltd. Petty Cury, Cambridge, England,
"NICHOLAS FERRAR
His Household and His Friends," Edited by T. T. Carter,
1892.

"NICHOLAS FERRAR
Two Lives," Edited by John Ferrar and Dr. Jebb,
1855,

J. E. B. Mayor, edition.

This copy contains some 153 letters written by Susanna Collett, as well as some written by her daughters Mary and Anna, Collett, & others.

Bought of Marks & Co., 84, Charing Cross Road, London, England,
"The Story Books Of Little Gidding,"
Edited by Miss E. Cruwys Sharland,
1899.

In 1931, I received a letter written long-hand, from Miss Sharland stating she was 80 years of age, had been ill, but hoped to write me at length upon her recovery. I never heard from her again, have often wondered if she may be living?

Also bought of Marks & Company, London,
"The Oxford Reformers,
Rev. John Collett - Desiderius Erasmus - Sir Thomas More,"
Edited by Fredrick Seebohm,
1869.

These are the three men that brought about the Reformation, in England under King Henry, or, the Church of England, or, the Episcopal Church of today.

Genealogy--3

There are some twelve other editions published, edited by others, upon the Ferrar-Collett family; both Huguenots; of Normandy, France, that went into England, with William The Conqueror, in 1066 A. D. but, what I have I think ample for my desires, and for posterity, in so far as members of my family will be interested in genealogy.

CLARA COLLETT FAIRBANKS

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Clara Collett, the youngest of nine children, was born August 14th, 1840, upon her father's Walnut Grove Estate, Eugene Township, Vermillion Co., Ind. She was the dau of Stephen Stephenson Collett, born Dec. 26th, 1791, at Huntingdon, Pa., died while serving as an Ind. State Senator from Vermillion and Parke counties, at Brownings Hotel in Indpls, Ind. Dec. 28th, 1843, and Sarah Groenendyke Collett born July 6th, 1804 at Farmer, Seneca Co., N.Y.; died in Eugene Twp., Vermillion Co., Ind., Mar. 2nd, 1852. They were married at T.H., Ind. by the Rev. J. B. Modisett, Nov. 8th, 1821, where they remained till 1827. In 1827, upon selling his interest in the mercantile firm of Rose, Linton and Collett, Stephen S. Collett removed with his family to Vermillion Co. Both Stephen S. Collett and his wife Sarah Groenendyke Collett are buried in the Collett-Fairbanks Cemetery Lot in Highland Lawn Cemetery, T.H., Ind.

Clara Collett was left an orphan at an early age, being 3 when her father died and 12 yrs of age when her mother died. After her mother's death Clara remained at her home which was supervised by "Auntie" Mrs. Susanna Flanders and her husband Mr. Harvey Flanders. The Flanders, although servants, were greatly loved by all the Colletts, and they brought up the children of the Stephen S. Collett's with the same care as would have been exercised by their parents had they lived. At home with "Auntie" Flanders were John, Jane, Josephus and Clara. The other children: Emily, Mary, Ellen and Stephen S., Jr., being older, were married and had homes of their own. One sister, Sarah, died in infancy.

Clara, as did her sisters, attended grade school at the Porter School House, a township school located about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi from her home. Later she and her sister, Jane, attended an Episcopal Seminary in TH, known as St. Agnes Hall. This seminary was located on the property now owned by St. Anthony's Hospital. Upon completion of their attendance at St. Agnes Hall, Jane and Clara returned to the Vermillion Co. home, where under the continued supervision of "Auntie" Flanders they lived with their brother John until 1869, when John was appointed Geologist of the State of Indiana with Prof. Cox. With John in Indpls, it was deemed advisable that his sisters should not remain on the Old Estate, so a personal property sale was held, surplus belongings disposed of, and Jane and Clara removed to TH to live.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
VIGO, INDIANA

At TH Jane met and later married Mr. James H. Turner. Clara met Mr. Crawford Fairbanks and they were m. Dec. 31, 1872. Mr. & Mrs. Fairbanks went to housekeeping on Cherry street in the 1st house east of the old Congregational Church; next door to the old Ben Hudnut home. At the time of his m. to Clara Collett, Crawford Fairbanks was employed in a shoe store. His wife was very well to do, most of her money being in Vermillion Co. farm land, and she gave her husband the sum of \$5,000. to buy out the interest of Mr. Cox, the grf of the late Wilson Naylor Cox, in the TH distillery Co. of Hulman & Cox. From this start given him by his wife, C.F. never faltered; his estate is too well known for comment here.

To Crawford Fairbanks and his wife were born 2 children: the first a dau who d. in infancy; the 2nd a dau, Sarah Fairbanks, who m. Mr. Bruce Failey. Mrs. F. lived a busy life in TH giving both her time and her money to charities; the majority of her gifts were never made public. Clara Collett Fairbanks d. Feb. 9th, 1911 and is bur in the Fairbanks-Failey Mausoleum at Highland Lawn Cem, T.H., Ind. The Clara Fairbanks Old Ladies Home was endowed from some of the money of Mrs. F's personal estate.

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Crawford Fairbanks was b in Vigo Co., April 25th, 1843. His father was a farmer and the family had to be contented with the bare necessities of life. He attended country schools when he could be spared from farm chores.

When 17 years of age, he left home and went to work in a store at \$5 per wk, boarding himself. He soon became known in the then small business center of TH as an industrious and dependable clerk. He swept out the store, kept the stock in order and kept books, at the same time getting a good idea of the rudiments of business which laid the foundation of his business successes of later years.

When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the 129th Ind. Inf. Vols. He was made Lt and went out under command of Charles B. Cox, of Ft. Wayne. His regt participated in numerous battles, incl Chattanooga and Atlanta under Gen. Sherman.

When the war was over, still a very young man, he ret to TH and engaged in the grain business. His firm prospered. Money came in rapidly and from that time the rise of C.F. in the business world was assured.

He went into the distillery bus and org the TH Brewing Co. whose plant was one of the largest and whose branches could be found in every sizable town in the US. Below are listed a few of the business enterprises in which Mr. F was a leader:

- Pres. TH Brewing Co.
- Pres. Diamond Paper Co., Anderson
- Pres. Haverhill Paper Co., Haverhill, Mass.
- V-P. Chicago Paper Co., Chicago, Ill.
- V-P. Pierpont Paper Co., Pierpont, NY
- V-P. Southern Ind. Gas Co., Greenfield & Shelbyville, Ind.
- V-P. Straw Board Factory, Elgin, Ill.

He owned & operated the Dennison Hotel of Indlps. He was part owner of French Lick Springs & Hotel. He was owner of real estate in Indlsp in which Fair Bank was located. He was one of the directors of the Monon R.R.

He was one of the best known politicians in Ind. Alth a power in TH, he never attempted to play the role of boss. He was also a natl figure in politics.

Thruout his whole life he was a friend to the poor and needy. Tho sometimes imposed upon by the people he sought to befriend, he cont to the end of his life to befriend the underprivileged. He was philosopher with a rare sense of humor. An amusing story is told abt one of his charities. Upon one occasion, when a well-dressed man wearing a large diamond stickpin in his scarf, applied for a load of coal, a clerk, quite indignant, reported the matter to Mr. F.

"Let him have it," said Mr.F, with a twinkle in his eye. "Any man wearing a diamond, who has the nerve to ask for free coal, is entitled to a lot of consideration."

Gifts of which there is no accounting, which provided comfort and cheer to many unfortunates in TH, were made continuously thru a long period of years. To every charity he gave freely without wishing for any publicity. Among his best known contributions to charity were:

The Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women, 721 8th Ave., TH

The Fairbanks Memorial Park, in commemoration of the soldiers of Vigo Co, consisting of 140 acres on the banks of the Wabash river.

The Emeline Fairbanks Public Library, TH, in honor of his mother.

He was joined in his gift of Memorial Park by his bro Edward.

(Note: error?) He married Clara Collett, dau of Hon. Josephus Collett in 1872. They had one dau Sara (Mrs. Bruce Failey).

JOSEPHUS COLLETT, Sr., as has heretofore been briefly mentioned, died on the 21st instant, at his residence in Vermillion county, Indiana. If he had endured his long sickness till to-day he would have reached the ripe age of 85 years.

The deceased was a native of Hunting-ton county, Pennsylvania. He became a resident of Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1799, where he resided, except for a short time, when he lived at Columbus, in that State, until 1820. He was commissioned Sheriff of Ross county, Ohio, in 1818 and two years after that time moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, holding the position of Deputy Surveyor of the United States. He surveyed a district of land, composed of parts of the counties of Hendricks, Montgomery, Putnam and Parke. In 1825 he removed to the County of Vermillion, where he has since resided.

Mr. Collett was well and favorably known, honorable in all his dealings, possessing strong and marked traits of character, had many friends between whom there mutually existed firm and cordial attachments. By his prudence, sagacity and energy, Mr. Collett accumulated a handsome fortune. His generosity and hospitality are proverbial. Besides his family and kindred, many friends will sincerely respect his memory.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Scott Zimmerman

Avenatti said most children came to the home when they were six or older. Those not reclaimed by their parents usually stayed on until they were legally adults.

Craig Jones, Vermillion County Historian and a member of the home's board of directors, knows of the home quite well. "I grew up with many of the kids who lived there," he said. "I even plowed the bottom lands for them after I got out of the army." Jones recalls that life at the home was like life on any farm.

"They (the residents) were up at dawn like we all were, taking care of the animals. They had a herd of dairy cattle for milk and slaughter and a real nice herd of Angus cattle. What they didn't eat themselves, they put up for the winter. It was essentially self-sufficient," Jones said.

The self-sufficiency ended in the 1960s when the state changed child labor laws and prohibited institutions from slaughtering their own meat and providing their own milk—in essence, providing and preparing their own

food. "They wouldn't even let them have their own garden," said Jones. At that point the home sold all but 28 acres to PSI, essentially selling the farm.

All that remains today is the original home and one brick shed near the drive. The sale of the land allowed for the creation of the Collett Home West, a contemporary structure fifty yards from the 1902 structure. The new building serves most of the home's administrative needs.

Collett Home was designed to house 25 children. At the height of the Depression, 35 children lived under its roof. The home currently houses 21 children, six in the original building and fifteen in the new building.

Avenatti has applied for Community Focus Funds through the Department of Commerce to rehabilitate the aging structure. Though it is mostly intact and well kept by its residents, the guttering has begun to fail and details such as column capitals are deteriorating. It also suffers from unsympathetic changes, such as paneling and dropped ceilings.

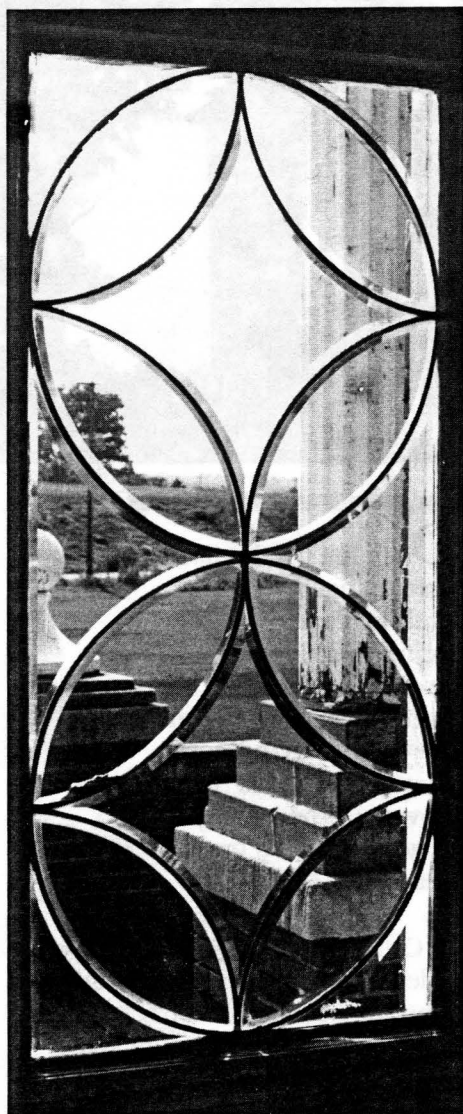
Daily life on the farm has changed, as have children's reasons for being there. In the home's early days, children often grew up on the farm, staying until they were adults. Now, however, the average stay is less than two years.

Collett Children's Home now provides for few orphans in the traditional sense of the word. In today's society the need lies with victims of abuse and neglect, delinquency, and drug abuse. The usual length of stay for children currently ranges from nine to eighteen months. Services include tutoring, group and family counseling, job placement and training in independent living skills.

Although the idealistic days of life on the land are long gone, the Collett brothers would be proud that the institution they established still serves the troubled children of Vermillion County.

Child labor laws put self-sufficient youngsters out of work

Scott Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant, Western Regional Office



Scott Zimmerman

Many boys and girls who had nowhere else to turn found a home in Newport. Growing their own food and caring for their own home taught self-reliance and useful skills that would carry them through life.

Not many communities are lucky enough to have a private benefactor who sees to the welfare of orphaned children. Vermillion County had just that with brothers John and Josephus Collett, who in 1899 established the Collett Children's Home, a working farm in Newport. Though it has since "sold the farm," the home continues its commitment to disadvantaged youth.

The turn of the century heralded a child welfare movement that resulted in the juvenile courts system, the visiting teacher movement, settlement house programs, and later the U.S. Children's Bureau and the Boy and Girl Scouts. At that time, most children's homes were run by religious institutions.

The Collett brothers, who were both bachelors, established a work farm that provided for the well-being of Vermillion County's orphaned youth. Initially, it also housed widows of Civil War veterans, though this changed when "it was found that childhood and old age did not seem to agree one with the other, and the ladies had to leave the home," according to the *Parke-Vermillion County History of 1913*. "The conditions upon which this orphans' home was founded were such that any bright orphan who had lived in Vermillion County six months might be received and cared for, but no idiots or feeble-minded children find a home here, save in special cases," the history says.

Independently wealthy through interests in railroads and with no children of their own, the Collett brothers wanted to create a lasting memorial to themselves in fitting with their commitment to community. The endowment was arranged in 1891 and established when John died in 1899. Construction

of the home started in 1900 and was completed in 1902 on four hundred acres inherited from their father, Stephen Stephenson Collett. The farm included two barns, hog pens, chicken coops and a dairy barn "with an underground river that is pumped up and services the main house to this day," according to Director Lee Avenatti. The property went all the way down to the banks of the Wabash.

"I understand that the home was so well endowed financially that during the Depression it became the main lending institution for area farmers," said Avenatti. "The home was established with \$400,000 in 1891. That would be the equivalent of several million today."

The main house, a three-story Classical Revival structure which opened in June of 1902, cost \$20,000. The main part of the smooth red brick home measures 37'x90', and includes a library, reading rooms, matron's and superintendent's offices, and an overseer's room. A central rear wing housed a kitchen and butler's room, a nursery department, a sick room, and a basement with laundry, dry room, vegetable cellar and coal room, plus "a large attic, where [there] is a play house and room for ten extra beds." The floors are hard maple and the rooms are finished in hard pine. Bedrooms are on the second floor, and bathrooms are on both floors.

A large porch extends across the entire front of the building. Fluted columns, which extend from the raised porch to the third-floor gables, are two feet in diameter. The front entrance features double doors with a fan-light transom and leaded glass side lights.

Farming made the Collett Home self-sufficient and developed strong moral character and work skills in the boys and girls who lived there. Houseparents provided leadership and direction. Chores were assigned according to age and skills. The children attended Cayuga public schools.

PRESENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

President and
er, and in this ca-
ved ten years. This road
whole length of Vermillion
He presided over the affairs
road to the entire satisfaction of
stockholders until it was leased
the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Rail-
road company—thus transferring the
sole control to that corporation.

Mr. Collett was a busy man, figuring
very prominently in every enterprise of
growth and movement in this portion of
Indiana, and gradually extending his
labors throughout the country.

Mr. Collett's holdings were not con-
fined to any particular line of invest-
ments. When a business venture was
aid before him he scrutinized its merits
thoroughly, but generally with unerring
judgment, always insisting that the
advantages projecting the enterprise should
be on equal terms. There were few
states or territories in the Union in
which at some time or other Mr. Collett
had not made investments. It was in
railroad enterprises, however, in which
his name as a great financier was
most firmly established and so high
was his standing in the financial
circles of the East that he was enabled
to command vast sums of money to
further projects he had conceived to be
profitable. Besides the E. T. H. & C.
railroad of which he was always presi-
dent, he built the Nevada Central rail-
road running from Battle Mountain to
Austin, a distance of ninety-three miles,
and was president of the road until he
disposed of the property several years
ago. He built and, from its construc-
tion until his death, was president of
the Utah & Nevada railroad, extending
from Salt Lake City thirty-seven miles
skirting the southern shore
of Great Salt Lake. Other rail-
roads built by Mr. Collett were the
Western & Olean, a railroad in
western Ohio, in connection with
Charles Foster, now secretary of the
Western; the Genesee Valley railroad
near New York; Indiana Coal road and
the Austin & Northwestern, of Texas.
He was the owner and president of the
last named road until recently, when
he disposed of the property. Mr. Col-
lett was also president of the Chicago
Ohio River railroad, extending from
Laney to Sidell, Ill.

At one time he had large interests in
California, having extensive holdings
at Coronado Beach, San Diego, but re-
cently these have been disposed of. It
would be impossible at this time to
give a list of Mr. Collett's properties,
so many and varied are they. His
largest single interest was a quarter of
the Standard Wheel company, capi-
talized at \$2,000,000. Next, perhaps
importance were real estate inter-
ests in Chicago, New York City, Indian-
apolis, the Adirondacks, Minnesota,
Texas, Florida and Terre Haute.

As has been said, Mr. Collett was in-
terested in nearly every public enter-
prise in Terre Haute. He was president
of the Rose Polytechnic institute, the
Rose Orphan home, director in the First
National bank, director of the Terre
Haute & Indianapolis railroad, stock-
holder in the Vigo County National
bank, director of the Rose dispensary
at the Terre Haute House company.
He was president of the Indiana Book
company.

Collett made a will many years
ago; his last will was made about
several years ago. To this last will a
codicil was attached only a few days
before his death, and in this it is be-
lieved that he made ampler bequests to
relatives. The bulk of his vast es-
tate is supposed, has been be-
queathed to public institutions, the
Polytechnic institute probably be-
ing most generously remembered.
Mr. Collett's request that his
grave should not be opened for at least
several years after his death. Mr. Collett
carried a heavy life insurance, esti-
mated at about \$100,000.

Various estimates are placed on Mr.
Collett's wealth. His investments are
so varied, that it will be impossible to
determine the value of his estate until
further investigation is made. Those
best in position to judge believe that
Mr. Collett's estate should be valued
anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.
Dr. John Bogart, of Clinton, who was
called to Mr. Collett's bedside in New
York, and has been with him constant-
ly since his return to Terre Haute, will
likely be executor of the estate.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

The board of managers of the Rose
Orphan home, of which the late Mr.
Collett was a member from its organi-
zation, met yesterday afternoon and
after adopting resolutions expressive
of the high esteem felt for their late as-
sociate, resolved to attend the funeral
in a body.

FEBRUARY 14 1893.

MR. COLLETT'S FUNERAL.

His Last Resting Place at Highland Lawn
Cemetery—Resolutions of Respect.

In the shade of the huge granite
monument in Highland Lawn cemetery
will rest the mortal remains of Josephus
Collett. The structure is known as the
Collett-Fairbanks monument. The
mammoth monument is thirty feet in
height and is beautifully located on a
plat of table-land and is the prettiest
location in the cemetery, being con-
veniently visible from any point in the
cemetery. It is a monument to skilled
workmanship, as well as to the mem-
ory of a public-spirited gentleman.

At a meeting of the board of man-
agers of the Rose Polytechnic institute
yesterday afternoon, the board decided
to attend the funeral in a body and
adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas, It has pleased Divine
Providence to remove from his present
field of usefulness our late associate
and coadjutor, Josephus Collett, presi-
dent of the board;

It is fitting that we, the remaining
members, should give public expres-
sion to our regard for him as an up-
right man, our appreciation of his
valuable services as a public
spirited citizen of Terre Haute,
and bear testimony to his wise and
faithful administration of the trusts
confided to him by his friend the late
Chauncey Rose.

"We tender his relatives our sym-
pathy in this their bereavement and as
the last mark of respect, we will attend
the funeral services in a body in con-
junction with the members of the fac-
ulty and students of the Rose Poly-
technic institute."

The board of directors of the Rose
dispensary met last evening and decided
to attend the funeral of their late fel-
low director, Mr. Josephus Collett, in a
body. The board, composed of the fol-
lowing gentlemen, Judge Joshua Jump,
Samuel McKeen, U. R. Jeffers, M. S.
Durham and R. A. Morris, will hold a
meeting next Monday evening to pass
suitable resolutions of respect. Mr.
Collett was president of the board of
directors.

The funeral services will take place
this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the
residence of Mr. Crawford Fairbanks.

Or claimed. He said he did not claim to be a philanthropist, yet hundreds and even thousands of people will feel that Mr. Collett, by the gift of the park and his plan of disposing of the property around it and made desirable by it, has been a public benefactor. Probably no single move has had such a permanent and far-reaching influence upon this city as the gift of that twenty acres of beautiful lawn and grove now on the city's northern edge, but which only a few years ago was far from the inhabited district. Not only has the park been a delightful resort for all classes of people moving from the confinement and cares of daily toil to freshness and sweetness of a beautiful rural retreat, but very many who have no other resource for relief and recuperation. The opening of the park led to the growth of the city in that direction. Hundreds of people desirous of owning their own or more modern homes, found Mr. Collett ready to dispose of his lots in the vicinity of the park on more liberal terms than had been offered before and with scarcely any money in hand these hundreds found themselves housed in their new residences, to be paid gradually and easily to such patient joint-creditors as Mr. Collett and the building and loan societies. Mr. Collett had faith in the future and met the return which was due him. His action set in motion other forces and the new, handsome city which has sprung up beyond what was Terre Haute a few years since might as well bear his name as the beautiful grove which as Collett park will be his memorial finer, more enduring than marble.

THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS.

An associate of Mr. Collett's in many enterprises was asked what was the characteristics, beyond his energy and judgment, which made his success and reputation. "It was his sterling integrity which inspired confidence in him and the plans he had to suggest. The bankers and railroad men of New York had confidence in him and knew he would do what he promised." He showed a reserve amounting to scrupulosity, in standing sponsor for others or in seeming to invite credit for someone because near to him, yet he preferred to have friends go in with him in profitable schemes.

HIS PROMPTNESS.

He decided quickly and invested promptly in all directions in all kinds of deals, and would invite friends to take with him a tale mine, a property in the Adirondacks, or a share in a seaside resort on the Pacific. When the project was before the city to build a railroad to Chester, Mr. Collett, who had as little personal interest in it as anyone, at once indorsed it and made a large subscription. When the piano factory was being exploited he was at the head of the list, with the proviso that he would give something wherever it was located, but more if in his own neighborhood. When the fund to purchase the Terre Haute house was made up he subscribed a fair sum, but on being told he ought to give more, at once doubled the amount. When the tool works was asking for a donation he also gave to that, though not near his own holdings and joined in the guarantee to secure a large loan. This summary could be extended to an indefinite length to show that he cooperated in enterprises not originating with him and not always promising direct returns.

JOSEPHUS COLLETT'S ANCESTRY.

The ancestry of Mr. Josephus Collett can be traced through four centuries for a Jew Collett is spoken of in an old

library who was dean of St. Paul's the reign of Henry VII and Henry VIII and founder of St. Paul's school for boys; his father Sir Henry Collett, was twice lord mayor of London in the reign of Henry VII. His ancestors left England on the restoration of Charles II, sought safety at first in Ireland and afterwards, about the year 1765, came from that country to America and settled at Washington, Delaware. His grandfather, John Collett, was a soldier under Washington and moved from Delaware to Pennsylvania about the year 1780, where in Washington county, Stephen S., the father of Josephus was born.

In 1800 the grandfather removed to Chillicothe and in 1806 to Columbus, Ohio, then inhabited principally by Indians. The first wagon road from Lime Rock in the Ohio river to Chillicothe was "blazed out" by Josephus Collett's grandfather, and was known as "Collett's Trace." He also built the first house of any pretensions in Columbus.

The family name of Collett has been closely and prominently identified with the history of this portion of the state since its territorial days. The earliest law books and state records, those antedating the birth of the deceased, bear honorable mention of a name of Josephus Collett. He was a native of Indiana, born in Vermillion county August 17, 1832, and was a son of Stephen S. and Sarah Groen dyke Collett, the latter of who was a native of New York. This name was also a familiar one in the history of Vigo county. Stephen S. Collett was a native of Pennsylvania. They were of English and Dutch descent. The mother came from the sturdy land-Dutch, who settled the state of New York nearly three hundred years ago. On both sides of this house were colonists in New York and Pennsylvania, and their descendants were among the pioneers of Vigo county. The parents of Josephus Collett were married in Vigo county in 1821, and resided in Terre Haute until 1826, when they removed to Vermillion county. His grandfather, John Collett, was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and among the first settlers of Scioto county, Ohio, and a large land holder, enjoying many offices of honor and trust. His son, the father of Josephus, was a merchant, but in his later life became a farmer. He served several terms as representative and also as state senator from Vermillion county. He was elected senator in 1848 and died in the discharge of the duties of his office at Indianapolis, his untimely death being greatly regretted all over the state.

Josephus Collett was the fifth of a family of eight children. His young life was spent in the family home in Vermillion county, Ind., attending the common schools, and preparing himself for higher study. He entered Wabash college, and had reached his senior year, but his health having become so precarious, and a case of the eyes having developed, was compelled to forego the advantage of graduation in the classical course at that time, so had to content himself with the degree of master of arts time after. When he gave up the study he engaged in stock dealing and mining, meeting with marked success.

HIS CAREER AS A FINANCIER.

In 1869 he embarked extensively in mercantile trade and in pork at Newport, dealing also extensively in grain. His next business was in company with one of Vinton's early pioneer citizens, Charles Rose. They built the Evansville and Chicago railroad.

DEATH OF JOSEPHUS COLLETT

One of Indiana's Most Eminent Financiers Passed Away Yesterday
After a Long Illness.

A MAN OF MARKED CHARACTERISTICS

Engrossed In Vast Financial Enterprises
He Yet Showed His Love of
Literary Pursuits.

Mr. Josephus Collett died yesterday morning at the residence of Mr. Crawford Fairbanks. He had suffered for many months, meeting with the first serious attack last September while in New York. Since he was able to return to Terre Haute, in December, he has been under the unremitting care of his sister, Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks. His strong will power was shown during his painful illness, in which he suffered excruciating agony, for he retained his clear mind and was able to give attention to details of his great business.

Mr. Collett in many respects was the leading financier of Terre Haute, but



Do not
J. C. Collett

his widely distributed interests, his ability and integrity made him prominent and respected all over the country. Although he was constantly on the go, now in Texas or California and then hastening to the East he spent enough time in Terre Haute to be fully in touch with all its enterprises, to supervise his extensive real estate and business investments and to be a familiar figure on our streets, along which he passed always with a brisk step, to keep punctually his engagements or to fill his place at the various board meetings where he was needed. If business was

attended to he took his part and his views in a crisis of action

was hurried off elsewhere.

He was slight and erect in figure, alert in movement and though showing the reserve of a preoccupied and busy man was frank and pleasant in address. His health was such as to disturb the cheerful balance of his temper at times, but he would regret it if he lost his grip on his own self-possession. A man who lived so closely to his own bond would expect exact settlements, but he would not be unjust. Mr. Collett, however, showed breadth of view and liberality in execution. Very few public enterprises were floated without his co-operation and few subscription papers for subsidizing or promoting new operations did not have his name near the top of the list. He had the spirit of an enterprising and liberal business man and was always ready to set the ball rolling. One in his position invited solicitation, and he gave to many things. One of his recent subscriptions was to a little church which was starting without a creed. He added to his gift the advice, dictated by his common sense, that the founders should unite with some religious body if they hoped for success. He paid for a church pew as a recognized duty. Here and there can be found men whom he helped through school. As he was without family and absorbed in business he was naturally self-centered, but he had a taste for reading and science. He owned and read books, specially those relating to his favorite studies of geology and archeology, and must have given much thought to the rare and curious objects which made up the great collection of 14,000 specimens stored in the rooms next to his office, which is full enough of archaeological, geological and natural history specimens to enrich the cabinets of a university. A number of articles from the Grecian isles are reminders of Mr. Collett's European tour made in company with Mr. D. W. Minshall and Mr. Jacob Baur, a few years ago. On such a journey he was a most companionable and intelligent fellow-traveler.

He was a very busy man, because he was very exact and conscientious in fulfilling his duties and in looking after details. If a thing was to be done, he attended to it himself. When he was building the railroad to Danville he walked over it from Vermillion to Terre Haute to examine it by rail and tie. The work connected with the Polytechnic Institute had his close attention from its inception

when Mr. Rose was determining what sort of a school it should be. He was the vice president while Mr. Rose was the president of the board, and after the founder's death succeeded him as president. To him was left the management of the investments belonging to the institute, which were collected and reinvested principally at his discretion. As they amount to about \$525,000 the trust was an important one.

HIS GIFT OF COLLETT PARK.

Mr. Collett's name will ever belong to Terre Haute because of an act which was an example of the liberal policy characterizing many of his operations. The gift of Collett park to the city of Terre Haute, though showing the foresight of the financier and confidence in the future of the city, seasoned by sentiment and a

MR. COLLETT'S FUNERAL.

The Remains Are Laid to Rest This Afternoon.

Services at the Residence of Mr. Crawford Fairbanks.

The funeral of the late Josephus Collett occurred this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence of Crawford Fairbanks. The services, which were conducted by Rev. Crum, were brief but were very beautiful and impressive. The music was by the Paige family quartette. They sang very beautifully "Rock of Ages" and "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." Rev. Crum read the twenty-third Psalm, and followed by prayer. The quartette then sang "We Shall Reach the Summer Land, Some Sweet Day."

The pall bearers were: Honorary, W. R. McKeen, D. W. Minshall, C. R. Peddle, President Eddy, Gov. Matthews and M. S. Durham; active, Fred A. Ross, Capt. Fitch, Dr. Bogard, Ed. P. Fairbanks, L. D. Thomas and Chas. Baur.

The casket was dark with silver trimmings. Across the foot of the casket was a beautiful bunch of palms. The floral decorations were both many and beautiful, and the room breathed forth the perfume of a summer's day.

Among them were a large, beautiful, white cross and beautiful white wreath. Among those present from a distance were: Prof. John Collett, ex-state geologist, of Indianapolis, and Stephen Collett of Newport, brothers of the deceased, J. D. Collett of Indianapolis, and S. D. Collett of Pittsburg, nephews of the deceased, A. C. Daniel of Danville, with whom Mr. Collett was for a long time interested in coal operations, Wm. Chisler, C. E. A. Stephens and John Groesdyke of Newport; Dr. Bogard of Clinton, Gov. Mathews of Indianapolis, Mrs. D. J. Mackey of Evansville; Prof. C. A. Waldo of Depauw University, Greencastle; C. R. Bement, P. E. Huston, W. J. Lewis, and E. O. Hopkins, of Evansville; H. W. Hubbard, of St. Louis; S. B. Davis, of Newport.

The members of the boards of directors of the Rose Polytechnic, Rose Orphan's Home, and Rose Dispensary attended the funeral in a body, as did also the students of the Polytechnic.

Henry Campbell and Stephen Collett Campbell, nephews of the late Josephus Collett, came to the city today from Crawfordsville to attend the funeral of their uncle.

Lieut. Wm. May and wife came down from Chicago this morning to attend the funeral of Josephus Collett. Mrs. May is his niece, the daughter of his sister, Mrs. Campbell. Lieut. May is a graduate of West Point and in the regular army, stationed at Chicago.

POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS

Adopt Resolutions on the Death of Mr. Collett.

The students of the Rose Polytechnic Institute met this morning and adopted the following resolutions on the death of Josephus Collett:

Deeply conscious that in the death of Mr. Josephus Collett, president of the Board of Managers, we, the students of Rose Polytechnic have lost one who was our friend in the truest sense of the word, be it

Resolved, That as we sincerely mourn the loss of him, who during the entire existence of the Institute has been its most zealous guide the students ever ready helper, the champion of our institution in all matters, we remember that we grieve

thy and loss to be extended to relatives in their affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his relatives, and that they be conveyed to The Rose Technic and city papers.

A. H. KLOTZ,
W. M. BLINKS,
STEWART S. COMFORT,
HARRY COOPER.

Evansville Journal: "Terre Haute and the railway world suffered a great loss in the death of Josephus Collett. He was a man of unlimited financial resources and unerring judgement in business matters. His great estate, so far as is known, will be distributed amongst a few relatives.

Mr. Collett was well known in this city, especially in financial circles. He has been for years associated with Mr. Mackey and during his life time the late Wm. Heilman, in their many enterprises, and his loss as an advisor and associate will be keenly felt in a business as well as a social way. The deceased was an excellent gentleman, kind hearted, and when he formed an attachment it was not easily broken. His friends here feel the deep loss they have sustained in his death.

Of all Terre Haute's prominent men and capitalists, but few are left. Amongst them are McKeen, Ijams, Hudnir, Fairbanks, Minshall, and the Demings. The past two years have played havoc with the old galaxy. Rose, Hager, Hudson, Tuell, Nippet and now Collett. There are but few left. This an average town in this respect.

MR. COLLETT'S WILL.

The Several Heirs Receive Liberal Legacies—Who They Are.

The bequests of the late Joseph Collett amount to \$167,000. The estate is estimated at \$500,000. This would leave \$333,000 to be distributed amongst the heirs after deducting \$75,000 for the Rose Polytechnic and the Collett Orphans' home. The heirs and the amount received by each on the one eleventh basis are:

Stephen S. Collett, \$60,000; Mrs. J. S. Turner, \$60,000; Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks, \$30,000; Mrs. Ellen Jones, \$60,000; Henry Campbell, \$30,000; Stephen C. Campbell, \$30,000; Joseph C. Davis, \$30,000; Mrs. Judge Jump, \$15,000, and Mrs. C. W. Ward, \$15,000.

Mr. Collett's relatives (that is his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews) are as follows:

Brothers, Prof. John Collett, ex-State Geologist, Indianapolis; Stephen S. Collett, Newport, Vermillion county.

Sisters, Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks and Mrs. James H. Turner, Terre Haute, and Mrs. Ellen Jones, Newport. Besides these Mr. Collett has two sisters dead as follows: Mrs. Emily Montgomery Davis and Mrs. Mary Campbell Crawford.

Nieces—Mrs. Judge Joshua Jump, Terre Haute; Mrs. C. W. Ward, Newport; Mrs. Minnie C. May, wife of Lieut. May, U. S. A., Chicago; Mrs. Rita Hunter, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Nellie Jones, Newport, and Mrs. Eva Littlepaige, Charleston, W. Va.

Nephews—Henry Campbell, Crawfordsville; Stephen Collett Campbell, Crawfordsville; John D. Collett, Indianapolis; Sam D. Collett, Pittsburg; Fred Collett, Newport and Joseph C. Davis, Terre Haute.